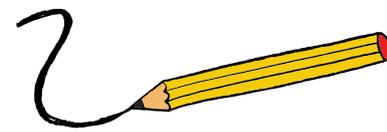


ACTIVITY 4

EXTINCTION



I can use my knowledge of the interactions and energy flow between plants and animals in ecosystems, food chains and webs. I have contributed to the design or conservation of a wildlife area. SCN 2–02a

David and his expedition party sometimes killed wild animals for food and clothing, but they only killed what they needed. In Victorian times hunting was very popular for sport, scientific research, to educate people about animals and animals were often collected as trophies. David was concerned about the impact trophy hunting would have on animal populations. When David was living at his mission station in Kolobeng he met some trophy hunters, including Roualeyn George Gordon-Cumming. He had also come from Scotland and was good friends with David.

David was concerned about the impact trophy hunting would have on the animal population: 'Mr. Cumming's book conveys a truthful idea of South African hunting. Two other gentlemen hunting in the same region destroyed in one season no fewer than seventy-eight rhinoceroses alone. Sportsmen, however, would not now find an equal number, for as guns are introduced among the tribes all these fine animals melt away like snow in spring. In the more remote districts, where fire-arms have not yet been introduced, with the single exception of the rhinoceros, the game is to be found in numbers much greater than Mr. Cumming ever saw.'

VICTORIAN HUNTING ATTITUDES

During Victorian times hunting was very popular among the wealthier classes. These people could afford to go to the Scottish Highlands to shoot deer, or even travel to faraway foreign places and shoot 'exotic' animals like lions and tigers. Below are some reasons why hunting was so popular:

SPORT The Victorians thought it was fun to chase and shoot animals.

SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH People wanted to find out about animals from all over the world.

EDUCATION Many animals were stuffed and put on display in British museums so that people who were not rich enough to travel to faraway places, such as Africa, could see and learn about exotic animals.

TROPHIES People liked to show how rich and brave they were by decorating their homes with dead animals from around the world. They would hang animal heads on their walls, make animal skins into rugs and even carve animal bone, horns and tusks into ornaments

CONSERVATION TODAY

Today, many animals are in danger of becoming extinct because too many animals have been hunted or their homes have been destroyed. There are many conservation projects worldwide that are working to protect endangered animals, in Scotland as well as in some of the countries that David travelled through.

What can you do to help?

Create a fact file about one endangered African animal. Find out why your chosen animal is endangered. Find out how many of your chosen animal are living in Africa today and whether this number is increasing or decreasing. Now you must do something to help protect your animal. You could sign a petition, create a campaign or organise a fundraising activity to donate money to a conservation charity.

TASK A

In David's time, and also today, elephants were hunted because of their tusks. Ivory is sought-after even though elephants are endangered. Look at the photo from the David Livingstone Birthplace museum collection showing two elephants being hunted. **Can you find at least 3 other animals that are endangered from being hunted over the centuries?**

Illegal poaching and trafficking of wildlife continues to hinder conservation efforts, with nearly 7,000 species of animals and plants reported in illegal trade involving 120 countries <https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal15>

TASK B A CALL TO ACTION!

According to a World Wildlife Fund 2018 report there has been a 60% decline in the size of populations of mammals, birds, fish, reptiles, and amphibians in just over 40 years. This has been due to them being hunted and their habitats destroyed by humans. It is feared that species like rhinos and lions are going to be lost forever. There are many conservation projects in Africa working to protect endangered animals, but how can you help?

1. Create a fact-file about one endangered animal from Africa – for example, the African Rhino
2. Find out why it is endangered – for example 7,912 African Rhinos have been lost to poaching in 10 years.
3. A good place to look online is the Animal Fact Guide to get you started.
4. Take action as a global citizen now to try to help save your animal! Sign a petition, create a campaign or organise a fundraising activity to donate money to a conservation charity!

If you want to find out more about conservation in Scotland, look at our reference list at the end of the resource.



Hunting elephants from 'Missionary Travels'
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