

## The terrible toads

Details

**A** Match each description with the correct animal.

- |                                                                   |                 |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| <u>  d  </u> 1. These have been killed by cane toads.             | a. beetles      |
| <u>      </u> 2. These were eating the sugar cane crops.          | b. cane toads   |
| <u>      </u> 3. In 1935, 100 of these were brought to Australia. | c. frogs        |
| <u>      </u> 4. These live happily alongside the cane toads.     | d. koalas       |
| <u>      </u> 5. Some Australians keep these as pets.             | e. marine toads |

Contrasting

**B** Are these facts about toads advantages or disadvantages to people? Mark each fact advantage (A) or disadvantage (D).

- A   1. They keep down the number of pests in Central and South America.
2. They don't eat the beetles that destroy sugar cane.
3. They have no natural predators in Australia.
4. Their flesh is poisonous.
5. Some people find them lovable.
6. They haven't damaged Australia's native ecology yet.

Context clues

**C** Find the words in *italics* in the reading. Then complete the sentences.

<i>amphibians</i> (par. 1)	<i>crops</i> (par. 1)	<del><i>multiply</i></del> (par. 4)
<i>appetite</i> (par. 1)	<i>destructive</i> (par. 2)	<i>plantations</i> (par. 1)

- If insects       *multiply*       very rapidly, there will not be enough food for them in the wild.
- Some beetles have a large                                  for sugar cane.
- Wheat and grapes are major                                  in Australia.
- Toads and other                                  can live in the water and on land.
- Many insects are                                  to plants.
- Sugar cane and coffee grow on                                 .

CHALLENGE

**D** Answer these questions.

- What did the farmers hope the cane toads would do?  
  *They hoped they would eat the beetles.*
- Why didn't the cane toads perform as expected?
- Why did the cane toads spread quickly through Australia?

## Exotic animals – not as pets!

Dictionary skills

**A** Skim the dictionary entries. Then find the correct definition for each word in *italics* in the sentences below.

- a. **care for** /ker•fɔɪr/ *v prep* to like someone or something
- b. **care for** /ker•fɔɪr/ *v prep* to provide a person or animal with what he or she needs
- c. **count** /kaʊnt/ *v* to calculate the number of units in a group
- d. **count** /kaʊnt/ *v* to consider as

- e. **poor** /pjʊr/ *adj* of very low quality
- f. **poor** /pjʊr/ *adj* having little money and/or few possessions
- g. **raise** /reiz/ *v* to cause something to rise or become bigger or better
- h. **raise** /reiz/ *v* take care of until completely grown

- e* 1. Cramped city apartments are a *poor* habitat for wild animals.
2. The ASPCA *counts* any animal that's not a cat or a dog as miscellaneous.
3. Travers is against *raising* wild animals as pets.
4. It's not easy to *care for* a wild animal in an apartment.

Scanning

**B** Circle the animals mentioned in the reading.

- |                    |             |            |
|--------------------|-------------|------------|
| ① alligator        | 6. kangaroo | 11. poodle |
| 2. bear            | 7. leopard  | 12. rabbit |
| 3. boa constrictor | 8. monkey   | 13. shark  |
| 4. cat             | 9. lion     | 14. tiger  |
| 5. dog             | 10. parrot  | 15. turtle |

Details

**C** Check (✓) the correct column.

		True	False	Not in the text
1.	The ASPCA is an organization in the U.S.	✓		
2.	The ASPCA only deals with wild animals.			
3.	Some people buy or steal animals from zoos to keep as pets.			
4.	The ASPCA finds most exotic animals when owners' neighbors complain.			
5.	George Watford has been bitten by animals.			
6.	Kathi Travers returns exotic animals from people's homes to the wild.			

CHALLENGE

**D** Write *W* next to the wild animals in Exercise B.

## Let's abandon zoos

Audience and purpose

**A** Circle the correct answers.

- Why does the article begin with questions?
  - The author doesn't know some information.
  - The author wants readers to answer the questions.
  - The author wants readers to think about the questions.
- What is the purpose of the article?
  - to give general information about zoos
  - to persuade people that zoos are bad
  - to encourage people to improve zoos
- Who is the audience for this article?
  - the general public
  - people who work in zoos
  - members of Born Free

Supporting arguments

**B** Complete the chart with statements from the box.

- |                                                                            |                                                                       |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Zoos are concerned about animals.      | <input type="checkbox"/> Baby animals attract paying customers.       |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Animals in zoos live in cramped cages. | <input type="checkbox"/> Animals in zoos have little privacy.         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Zoos protect endangered species.                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Zoos educate people about animals.           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Zoos use animals for entertainment purposes.      | <input type="checkbox"/> Zoos don't teach much about animal behavior. |

Arguments for zoos	Arguments against zoos
<i>Zoos are concerned about animals.</i>	<i>Animals in zoos live in cramped cages.</i>

Vocabulary

**C** Find these words in the reading. Do they have positive or negative meanings? Complete the diagrams.

- |                     |         |        |            |           |
|---------------------|---------|--------|------------|-----------|
| <del>abnormal</del> | cramped | fair   | meaningful | normal    |
| bored               | decent  | lonely | natural    | unnatural |

