



The modern zoo challenge

Wild animals and their habitats are disappearing because of the actions of humans. A Zoo can help to save and protect wildlife.

Using the ZSL website to conduct your research (zsl.org) see if you can answer the following questions....

Gorilla Kingdom is home to our troop of western lowland gorillas

How many gorillas are there at ZSL London Zoo? Can you name them?

Why are Gorillas **disappearing** from the wild?

Do some research into these issues—what can people do to help **save wild gorillas**?

Take a look behind the scenes at the modern zoo [HERE](#) and write down two ways that a **Zoo can help** to protect wild animals:

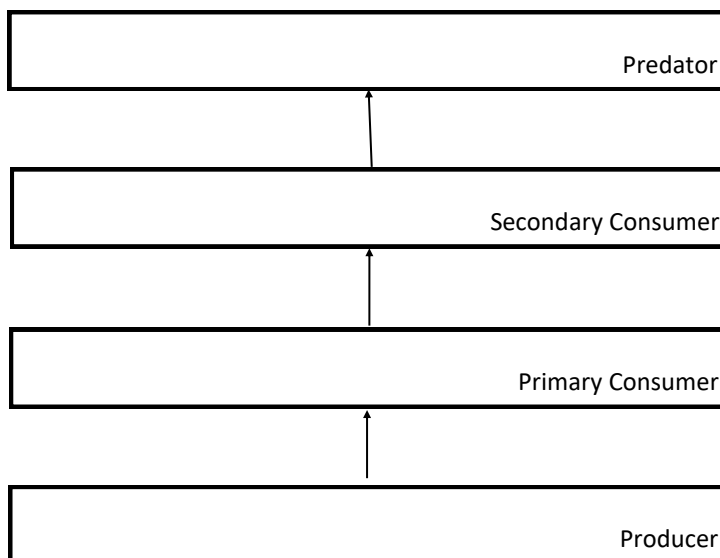
All animals are linked in food chains and webs. Every animal is important to our planet as it has its own **job to do or role to play**.

Invertebrates are a vital part of ecosystems all around the world. In fact, around 97% of all the species on the earth are invertebrates, as opposed to only 3% vertebrates.

Research three invertebrates from the same habitat, and write down their role within the ecosystem. *e.g. spiders help to reduce the number of flies by eating them.*

Animal	Job or role
.....
.....
.....

Now try and make your own food chain including some of these invertebrates:





Asian elephants are an endangered species.

Why are elephants **disappearing** from the wild?

Give one thing that we can do to help **save wild elephants**

Research which animals live in the Europe section at ZSL Whipsnade Zoo.

Choose your favourite animal and say why you think we should protect it.

Look at the variety of animals that live in the Africa section of ZSL Whipsnade Zoo. All animals are linked in food chains and webs. Every animal is important to our planet as it has its own **job to do or role to play**.

Find 3 animals and write down their job or role. *e.g Lions are predators and keep the number of grazing herbivores balanced*

Animal

Job or role

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Extension:

Lynx once roamed the UK – can you think of reasons why this animal has gone extinct in Britain?

There are now growing groups of scientists who are calling for this species to be reintroduced back into Britain. Research the different arguments for/against reintroducing this species and have a class discussion to decide whether or not you think it's a good idea.

USEFUL LINKS:

Gorillas at ZSL London Zoo:

<https://www.zsl.org/zsl-london-zoo/exhibits/gorilla-kingdom>

Gorilla conservation:

<https://www.zsl.org/zsl-london-zoo/exhibits/gorilla-kingdom/gorilla-conservation>

The modern zoo:

<https://www.zsl.org/education/the-modern-zoo>

A scientist's case for zoos:

<https://www.zsl.org/blogs/wild-science/the-case-for-zoos-a-scientists-perspective>

Invertebrates at ZSL London Zoo:

<https://www.zsl.org/zsl-london-zoo/exhibits/bugs>

Invertebrate conservation:

<https://www.zsl.org/blogs/science/championing-the-underbug>

Asian elephants at ZSL Whipsnade Zoo

<https://www.zsl.org/zsl-whipsnade-zoo/asian-elephant>

Asian elephant conservation

<https://www.zsl.org/conservation/regions/asia/asian-elephant-and-tiger-conservation-in-thailand>

Map of ZSL Whipsnade Zoo

<https://www.zsl.org/zsl-whipsnade-zoo/visitor-information/map-of-zsl-whipsnade-zoo>

Eurasian lynx at ZSL Whipsnade Zoo

<https://www.zsl.org/zsl-whipsnade-zoo/eurasian-lynx>