

## Tigers in Indonesia

Tigers have begun attacking and killing humans in remote parts of the Indonesian island of Sumatra. Eight people were killed in the first two months of this year alone. Local people are afraid, but they are also angry. They think they know what has caused the problem.

In the last twenty years, almost half of Indonesia's forest has been lost. As rich Western countries want more and more timber for their industries, the forest has been cut down and the wood sold abroad. This is earning money for Indonesia's government, but it is also destroying the place where tigers live. There is not enough food left for the tigers, so they are starting to kill and eat humans.

Sanrit Thale is a tiger catcher. He goes into the forest each day with his colleagues to track and catch tigers. Last month they caught one tiger, which they called Salma. She was two metres long and is now in a local zoo. The attacks haven't stopped though.

Near where Salma was caught, there is an illegal logging site. The people who work there do not have permission to cut down trees, but they still do it. Most of the workers are poor people who just want to earn enough to feed their families. The World Wildlife Fund (WWF) says illegal logging is to blame for the attacks as it is destroying the tigers' habitat.

Local women say they lock their doors at 6pm and lie awake at night, listening for tigers. They are afraid, but they do not agree with the WWF. They do not think that illegal loggers are to blame for the problem.

The District Chief agrees with the local women. He says the cause of the problem is an industrial logging scheme which operates in the area. The loggers have permits to work, but their operation is huge. They cut down many more trees than all the illegal loggers, who work mostly on a small scale. He asked why an industrial logging scheme was allowed to operate in the tigers' dwindling habitat. One reason, of course, is that the government gets money for the logging permits it sells.

There are only a few hundred tigers left in Sumatra, but there is still not enough space for them. The catchers are just trying to keep tigers and humans apart. This will be difficult as long as the world wants timber and palm oil and as long as Indonesia's government wants the money from the logging companies.

## **Questions:**

- 1) How many people have been killed, on average, in January and February?
  - a) One person per week.
  - b) Two people per week.
  - c) One person per month.
  - d) Eight per month.
  - e) None of the above.
  
- 2) Why have so many trees been cut down in Indonesia?
  - a) For firewood for local people.
  - b) For export to other countries.
  - c) To create space for people to live in.
  - d) To make it harder for tigers to survive.
  - e) None of the above.
  
- 3) Why are tigers attacking humans?
  - a) They are angry because their habitats have been destroyed.
  - b) They are afraid of humans.
  - c) They are hungry.
  - d) Humans are good prey.
  - e) None of the above.
  
- 4) Salma is:
  - a) the only tiger who was killing people.
  - b) the tiger catcher.
  - c) already dead.
  - d) Sanrit's colleague.
  - e) None of the above.
  
- 5) Who does the WWF think is responsible for the attacks?
  - a) Loggers who do not have permits.
  - b) The industrial logging scheme.
  - c) Legal loggers.
  - d) The District Chief.
  - e) None of the above.
  
- 6) Most local people:
  - a) agree with the WWF.
  - b) have the same opinion as the District Chief.
  - c) blame the illegal loggers.
  - d) don't know who has caused the problem.
  - e) None of the above.

- 7) Indonesia's forest is being cut down by:
- a) illegal loggers only.
  - b) legal loggers only.
  - c) both legal and illegal loggers.
  - d) by the government.
  - e) None of the above.
- 8) Why did the government allow the logging company to work in the forest?
- a) They wanted them to cut down the forest.
  - b) Because the District Chief asked them to.
  - c) The logging company paid the government.
  - d) They wanted the tigers' habitat to dwindle.
  - e) None of the above.
- 9) Which of these statements is true?
- a) The catchers have caught a few hundred tigers.
  - b) Fewer than a thousand tigers live in Sumatra.
  - c) There is enough space on Sumatra for a few hundred more tigers.
  - d) There is enough space for the tigers in the jungle.
  - e) None of the above.
- 10) The tiger catchers are trying to:
- a) catch all the tigers.
  - b) kill the tigers which attack people.
  - c) move people from the area.
  - d) collect tigers for the local zoo.
  - e) None of the above.

**RECRUIT SELECTION INTAKE 2010**

**READING COMPREHENSION TEST 1A – ANSWER SHEET**

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

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## A Dangerous Disease

The world's scientists, meeting in Mexico, have warned about a deadly virus. It could destroy wheat harvests in poor countries. This would lead to food shortages and then to possible strikes and riots over large areas of Asia and Africa.

Ug99 got its name because it was first seen in Uganda in 1999. It is a new variety of an old disease called 'stem rust' which has appeared several times in history. Ug99 has already spread from Africa to Iran. It is particularly frightening because the effects on crops can be seen almost immediately. Clouds of invisible spores, carrying the virus, travel for miles, before falling to the ground. It affects the leaves of the plants it touches.

The main worry is that Ug99 will continue travelling east to Pakistan, India and Bangladesh. These countries produce 15% of the world's wheat, feeding over a billion people. Before they can get a solution, scientists will need to overcome personal or nationalistic differences. In the past, these have stopped them sharing data.

They need to develop resistant wheat strains and distribute the new seeds around the world. They thought the fungus had disappeared, when disease-resistant seeds were first developed and planted in the 1960s. However, Ug99 has evolved and now 80-90% of all wheat grown in developing countries is vulnerable to the new fungus.

Experts fear that it could damage nearly all of the world's wheat. Sooner or later it will be found everywhere. If crops are not protected it could lead to a major global disaster. There would be widespread food shortages which will translate into unrest, including riots. To countries with already weak governments this could well prove the last straw.

Where the spores land, a healthy wheat crop turns black very quickly. In spite of the farmers' best efforts, the fields look as if they have been burned. Up to 80% losses were recently recorded in Uganda and Kenya. Luckily, neither country depends on wheat as a main, staple crop. It is now in Iran, where it *is* a staple crop, but where there is a drought. This has affected the spread of the virus and the harvest is safely in for this year. Iranian farmers must have blessed an event which normally they would have felt very differently about. Wind models suggest the disease will next move into Pakistan, Afghanistan and India.

Farmers in wealthy countries have money to buy the necessary fungicides and have the know-how to protect their crops. The cost of the fungicide alone is a major problem for small farmers in Asia and their governments don't help. The fungicide must also be applied several times. This means a lot of work. Many small farmers do not have the labour to do this and reading difficult instructions is beyond them. Widespread protection is necessary to save the crops. If even one farmer in the area fails to protect his crop the problem will come back the following year.

The original fungus has been developed by scientists in several countries who thought they could use starvation as a weapon. After the Second World War, US scientists developed a strain rather like Ug99. They planned to release it from the air to destroy enemy food supplies. In those days, the US army had stocks of more than 30,000kg of the 'weapon'. Scientists believe that Iraq, Japan and Russia followed their example. Ug99 is resistant to the three major anti-rust genes used to protect nearly all the world's wheat.

## Questions

- 1) Which of the following is correct about the virus?
  - a) The virus is deadly for humans.
  - b) It makes people become very angry.
  - c) Mexico is the centre for the virus.
  - d) It will affect all central Asia and Africa.
  - e) None of the above.
  
- 2) Which is correct?
  - a) 'Stem rust' started in Uganda.
  - b) Ug99 started in Africa.
  - c) Ug99 is an old disease.
  - d) We have always had this problem.
  - e) None of the above.
  
- 3) Which is correct?
  - a) The farmer can see the spores landing on his crops.
  - b) Ug99 travels in the rain clouds.
  - c) Crops die very quickly when affected.
  - d) The ground is infected.
  - e) None of the above.
  
- 4) We know that:
  - a) travellers carry the virus.
  - b) it will definitely affect Pakistan etc.
  - c) approximately 15% of all our food will be affected.
  - d) the scientists usually don't work together.
  - e) None of the above.
  
- 5) Which is true? The fungus:
  - a) died out in the 1960s.
  - b) was distributed in new seeds.
  - c) last appeared in the 1960s.
  - d) has been in seeds since the 1960s.
  - e) None of the above.

- 6) Which is correct?
- a) Only countries with weak governments will have riots.
  - b) Riots will affect many countries.
  - c) Riots will cause food shortages.
  - d) The words 'food shortages' translate as 'unrest, including riots'.
  - e) None of the above.
- 7) The situation in Uganda and Kenya was not a disaster because:
- a) about 20% of the wheat was spared.
  - b) wheat is not especially important for them.
  - c) the farmers made a huge effort and saved the wheat.
  - d) burning the crops eradicated the virus.
  - e) None of the above.
- 8) The words 'an event' refer to:
- a) a drought.
  - b) Ug99.
  - c) burning the crops.
  - d) the harvest.
  - e) None of the above.
- 9) Which statement is **untrue**? All farmers:
- a) have to spread the fungicide as thoroughly as possible.
  - b) have to spray the crop more than once.
  - c) need educating before they can use the fungicides.
  - d) have to follow the rules or the protection is useless.
  - e) None of the above.
- 10) Which statement is true?
- a) The US tested Ug99 as a weapon.
  - b) Other countries still have stockpiles of the fungus.
  - c) The disease came from a scientific experiment.
  - d) The fungus was seen as a possible weapon.
  - e) None of the above.

**RECRUIT SELECTION INTAKE 2010**

**READING COMPREHENSION TEST 2A – ANSWER SHEET**

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