UNLOCK YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Work with a partner. Discuss the questions below.

1 Is it better to see animals in a zoo or in the wild? Why?
2 Are there more wild animals in your country now or were there more in the past? Why?
3 Why do people keep domestic animals in their homes?
4 What things do we need animals for?
5 Which animals do you think are going to die out in the near future?
6 Can we live without animals?
PREPARING TO WATCH

1 You are going to watch a video about sharks. Before you watch, discuss the questions below with a partner.
   1 Which shark species is shown in the photograph?
   2 What size do these sharks grow to?
   3 What kind of prey do sharks eat?
   4 Why do sharks attack humans?
   5 Do sharks ever attack boats?

2 Watch the video and check your answers.

3 Complete the short paragraph using the words in the box.

Swimming near sharks can be very (1)__________ because of the risk of an attack. Sharks are very good at locating their food, so they are considered expert (2)__________. They (3)__________ their (4)__________ at high speed. In other words, they swim to their food very quickly. As a result, they may bite humans by (5)__________. This can be (6)__________ because the person may drown or lose a lot of blood.
WHILE WATCHING

4 Watch again and circle the correct answer (a–c) to complete the statement below.

The video is about great white sharks and
a the speed they swim in the water.
b how they hunt seals and fish in South Africa.
c why they sometimes attack humans.

5 Match the sentence halves. Then watch again and check your answers.

1 Great white sharks mainly eat seals and
2 Every year, great white sharks kill
3 Sharks come to False Bay in South Africa for the
4 Great white sharks kill seals by crashing
5 Great white sharks will attack a carpet in the shape of a seal because
6 Even though they are meat-eaters, sharks will bite into plants
7 Sharks prefer fish to humans but attack humans because

a 60,000 seals that swim there.
b they mistake us for seals.
c 40 kph, swimming up from deep down in the bay.
d large sea creatures like tuna.
e if they look like a fish.
f an average of three people.
g they cannot tell the difference at high speeds.

6 Work with a partner. Try to answer the questions below.

1 Why did the shark bite into the boat in the video?
2 Why do the seals risk swimming in the water with sharks?
3 Why do sharks prefer seals and tuna to humans?

DISCUSSION

7 Work with a partner. Discuss the questions below.

1 Should we be worried about sharks when we swim in the sea?
2 Should we protect sharks from fishing?
3 What are the benefits of research into animal behaviour?
PREPARING TO READ

1 Complete the table below with the names of any endangered animals and extinct animals you know.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>endangered animals</th>
<th>extinct animals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

2 Scan the factsheet on page 19 opposite and add any animals mentioned to your list of endangered animals.

WHILE READING

3 Read the factsheet and match the main ideas (1–4) to the paragraphs where they are mentioned (A–D).

1 How hunting and overfishing cause animals to become endangered
2 The difference between endangered and extinct animals
3 How governments and normal people can protect animals
4 How humans destroy and pollute animal habitat

4 Look at the bold words in the questions below. Which paragraph (A–D) of the factsheet should you look at to find each answer?

1 Who are most responsible for animal extinctions and endangered species?
2 Why does pollution and chopping down trees cause problems for animals?
3 What do people hunt animals for?
4 Which large sea creatures have become endangered because of overfishing?
5 What can individuals do to protect animal species from becoming endangered?
6 What should governments do about hunting and fishing of animals?
7 What should governments invest in to get more animals back into the wild?
Endangered species

A An endangered species is a group of animals that could soon become extinct. Extinction happens when the last of the species has died out and there will be no more. Many species are nearly extinct and could disappear off the face of the earth very soon if we don’t do anything to save them. There are many reasons why species become endangered but most of them are due to humans. However, there are things that we can do to save endangered species.

B Habitat destruction is the main reason why animals become endangered and this happens in two ways. When humans move into a new area, the animals’ habitat – where they live – is destroyed and there is nothing to eat because humans chop down trees and build houses and farms. Animal habitats are also destroyed because of pollution. Chemicals in rivers and poisons on farms cause the destruction of habitats and animals can no longer live there.

C Endangered species are also the result of hunting and fishing. Animals such as the Arabian oryx have been hunted to the edge of extinction because of the high price of their meat. Other animals are killed for their fur, bones or skin, or just for sport. Some seal species are now on the verge of extinction because they are killed for their fur to make coats. Tigers are shot to make medicine and tea from their bones, and crocodiles are caught to make bags and shoes. Overfishing means that large sea creatures like whales, tuna and sharks have all become endangered species, because too many are caught to make things like shark’s fin soup.

D So what can individuals and governments do to protect animal and plant species from becoming endangered? We should take care not to pollute natural areas, and farmers or companies who destroy animal habitats should face a financial penalty. The public can help out by refusing to buy any products that are made from animals’ body parts, such as seal fur coats or crocodile bags. Governments can help, too, by making it against the law to hunt, fish or trade in endangered species. They can also provide funding for animal sanctuaries and zoos, to protect animals from extinction by breeding more endangered animals, which they later release into the wild. If we all cooperate by taking these steps, we will protect our planet so that our children and their children can enjoy it too.

5 Read the factsheet again and answer the questions (1–7) in Exercise 4.
READING BETWEEN THE LINES

6 Read the last paragraph of the factsheet and underline words and phrases that mean the same as the bold words below.

1. Companies who destroy animal habitats should **pay a fine**.
2. Individuals should help to protect animals by **choosing not to buy** products like fur.
3. The government can make it **illegal** to hunt, fish or trade in endangered species.
4. Governments can **pay for** animal sanctuaries and zoos.
5. If we **work together** by **taking this action**, we can protect our planet.

DISCUSSION

7 Work with a partner. Discuss the questions below.

1. What other endangered species do you know about?
2. Should the government spend money to save animal habitats even if this means less money for roads or hospitals?

READING 2

PREPARING TO READ

1 Work with a partner. Look at the photographs and discuss the questions below.

1. What are the animals in the photographs?
2. Do you have them in your country?
3. Which animal is more successful in Britain? Why do you think this is?
WHILE READING

2 Skim the article below and find three reasons why the red squirrel is losing the battle for survival.

3 Read the article and answer the questions.
   1 How many red squirrels are left in the UK?
   2 Which squirrel is larger?
   3 What are the four reasons given for the success of the grey squirrel in the UK?

Losing the battle for survival

Red squirrels used to be a common sight in British forests and countryside. However, fewer than 140,000 individuals are thought to be left and most of them are found in Scotland. In contrast, grey squirrels are now so common they are seen as a pest and can be legally trapped and destroyed. The population decrease in red squirrels is claimed to be due to the introduction of the grey squirrel from North America, but disease and the loss of its native woodland habitat have also played a major role in the decline of the red squirrel in Britain.

On first sight, the two species of squirrel are similar. They both have a distinctive long tail, which helps the squirrel to balance when jumping from tree to tree, and the same large eyes, small ears and powerful back legs. However, the grey squirrel has a clear physical advantage over the red. The red squirrel has a typical head-and-body length of 19 to 23 centimetres, a tail length of 15 to 20 centimetres and a body weight of 250 to 340 grams. Compared to this, the grey squirrel is a larger animal. The head and body measures between 23 and 30 centimetres long and the tail is between 19 and 25 centimetres long. Adult grey squirrels are heavier, weighing between 400 and 600 grams. This size allows them to store more fat and helps them to survive a harsh winter, which would be fatal to their smaller cousins.

So why are red squirrels losing out in competition with grey squirrels? Size is one factor but there are others. Red squirrels live high up in trees, whereas greys spend more of their time on the ground. This means that any reduction in forest habitat greatly affects the red squirrel population. Another reason for the grey squirrel’s success is its ability to use food provided by humans. Like the fox, the grey squirrel can survive in an urban environment because of its intelligence and adaptability. The other problem for the red squirrel is disease. Both squirrels carry the parapox virus. While this does not seem to affect grey squirrels, it is fatal to reds.

There does not seem to be much we can do to help red squirrels survive. Some politicians support destroying populations of grey squirrels but this would be seen as cruel by most people in Britain. However, red squirrels have been successfully introduced from other countries and they could be effectively protected in places like the Isle of Wight and Anglesey, where there are no grey squirrels. Another question is whether we should protect red squirrels at all. Worldwide, they are not an endangered species, so many scientists would prefer government conservation funding to be spent on other endangered animals.
The article compares the red and the grey squirrel. The grey / red squirrel was introduced to Britain and has become very successful since then. Now there are fewer / more than 140,000 native red squirrels left in the wild, but the grey is regarded as a pest / pet. The main reason why the red squirrel is less successful is that the grey squirrel is fatter / thinner so it is less affected by cold weather. Another reason is that grey squirrels are unable / able to live in cities. A further reason may be the parapox virus, which kills / injures red squirrels. Most / Few British people support destroying grey squirrels and because red squirrels are / aren’t endangered worldwide, they could be reintroduced to the UK.

5 Look again at the article on page 21 and try to answer the questions below.

1 Why do you think grey squirrels are regarded as a pest?
2 Who do you think are the ‘smaller cousins’ mentioned in paragraph two?
3 Why might some British politicians be in favour of saving the red squirrel?
4 Why do you think there are no grey squirrels on Anglesey and the Isle of Wight?

6 Work with a partner. Discuss the questions below.

1 Should we save British red squirrels
   a by killing grey squirrels?
   b by planting more trees?
   c by trying to protect them from disease?
2 Is trying to save British red squirrels a waste of time and money?
3 Are introduced animal species a problem in your country?
ACADEMIC ADJECTIVES 1

1. Match the adjectives (1–7) to their definitions (a–g).
   1. endangered a. unkind and unpleasant
   2. aggressive b. strong and well
   3. healthy c. easy to recognize
   4. cruel d. facing a high risk of extinction
   5. familiar e. seen in a lot of places
   6. common f. not strong
   7. weak g. behaving in an angry or violent way

Comparative adjectives

When we compare things, we have to use the comparative form of the adjective.

2. Complete the table below using the adjectives in the box. The first one in each category has been done for you as an example.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>common</th>
<th>healthy</th>
<th>endangered</th>
<th>small</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>aggressive</td>
<td>weak</td>
<td>familiar</td>
<td>heavy</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>one-syllable adjective</th>
<th>two- (or more) syllable adjective</th>
<th>two-syllable adjective ending with -y</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>adjective + -er + than</td>
<td>more/less + adjective + than</td>
<td>adjective + -ier + than</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 weaker than</td>
<td>3 more familiar than</td>
<td>7 heavier than</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. Use comparative forms from the table to complete the sentences below.
   1. The red squirrel is smaller and __________________ than the grey squirrel.
   2. Grey squirrels are generally __________________ their smaller cousins, because greys are not affected by the parapox virus.
   3. Great white sharks are __________________ tiger sharks, which are not at risk of extinction.
   4. Whale sharks are __________________ tiger sharks and do not attack anything.
At the end of this unit, you will write two comparison paragraphs. Look at this unit’s Writing task in the box below.

Compare and contrast the two sharks in the diagram.

Organizing information
Organizing information from a diagram is an important critical thinking skill.

1 Look at the diagram of the two sharks and the boxes in Exercise 2. Write a sentence for each feature to explain how the sharks are similar or different.

1 Size:
2 Colour:
3 Skin pattern:
4 Mouth:
5 Fins and tail:

2 Look at more information about the two sharks and answer the questions on page 25 opposite.

**Whale shark**
- Length – 10 metres
- Weight – 9 tonnes
- Diet – plankton, krill, other very small animals
- Conservation status – endangered
- Behaviour towards humans – no recorded attacks

**Tiger shark**
- Length – 4 metres
- Weight – 500 kg
- Diet – tuna, dolphins, turtles
- Conservation status – not currently at risk of extinction
- Behaviour towards humans – 119 attacks since 2009