

Animals in Luxembourg

Revision - the present simple and the past simple active and passive.

Reading comprehension – A2 and B1 tasks

Vocabulary related to animals and the environment

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1. Bat magic and folklore¹

By [Patti Wigington](#)

Updated on August 22, 2019

Fill the gaps (1-20) with the correct form of the past simple of the verbs in brackets (active or passive).



In many parts of the world, once the sun begins to set, bats emerge from their resting places and zoom around outdoors, hunting for sustenance.

___1___ (you / to know)?

Bats bounce sounds off their surroundings, and this allows them to fly in completely dark conditions.

From a magical standpoint, bats are associated with workings related to death and dying, communication, and the spirit world. Bats are associated, in many cultures, with death and dying, which makes them a perfect representative of Samhain (= the time when the veil between our world and the spirit realm is thin).

Bats in Myth and Legend

Already one of the fables attributed to the ancient Greek storyteller Aesop (620 – 564 BCE) *The Birds, the Beasts and the Bat* tells the story of a bat that ___2___ (not can / to choose) sides in a potential war and, when peace ___3___ (to come), neither side ___4___ (to want) to accept him.

During the Middle Ages, residents of western Europe and England ___5___ (to believe) that bats spread disease. This is most likely because of the bat's similarity to the rat, which ___6___ (usually / to blame) for the spread of plague. Because many people ___7___ (to believe) in witchcraft during this time, the bat ___8___ (to associate) with witches, dark magic, sorcery, and even talking to the dead. People in rural Scotland and northern England ___9___ (to suspect) bats of being messengers between witches and the devil.

Centuries later, during the Victorian era, Bram Stoker ___10___ (to write) *Dracula*, which ___11___ (to combine) mysterious bats with a shape-shifting vampire.

While Europeans ___12___ (to be) busy associating bats with witches and dark magic, the Mayans ___13___ (to celebrate) a god named Camazotz. He ___14___ (to be) a monstrous creature with the head and wings of a bat and the body of a man and ___15___ (to be) associated with human sacrifice. For explorers like Cortez and his conquistadors, with European heritage and background, a bat god like Camazotz ___16___ (to be) absolutely terrifying.

¹ <https://www.learnreligions.com/bat-magic-and-folklore-2562685>

When bats appear in Native American folklore of the United States and Canada, their most important feature is usually their intermediate appearance between birds and mammals, either causing the bat to be rejected by one or both groups. Like Americans today, some Native American tribes mistakenly ____17____ (used to / to believe) that bats ____18____ (to be) more dangerous than they really are. Some tribes ____19____ (to think) that bats ____20____ (to feed) on people.

The bat is also seen as a trickster in some societies, particularly in North American tribal cultures. Like Coyote, the bat often appears in cautionary tales. However, the bat is also associated with clarity of vision and intuition, perhaps due the creature's ability to fly about at night when other animals are sleeping.

In Eastern cultures, there tends to be a very different view of bats. Rather than seeing them as harbingers (= forerunners) of death or symbols of black sorcery as Western societies do, people in China honour the bat as a symbol of happiness and long life. Five bats in a group together are a five-fold blessing: financial security, longevity, good health, a virtuous life, and a natural death.

Answer the questions in your own words.

1. Which parts of the world (continents) do bats live in?

2. When are bats active?

3. Why are bats 'a perfect representative of Samhain'?

4. How were bats perceived in the Middle Ages?

5. Who is Dracula?

6. Who is Camazotz?

7. How are bats perceived in North America?

8. Where are bats perceived positively?

2. Bats

Fill the gaps (1-20) with the correct form of the present simple of the verbs in brackets.



Bats have been around for 50 million years. The second largest order of mammals after rodents, bats comprise about 20% of all classified mammal species worldwide, with over 1,200 species.

Bats are the only mammals that can fly. People used to think that bats were birds without feathers, but there is no such a thing as a featherless bird.

What ___1___ (bats/to look) like?

Bats come in different sizes, from the smallest bats such as the tiny bumblebee bat to the largest bats such as the fruit bats and the flying fox with a wingspan as long as an average man (1.7 m).

Where ___2___ (bats/to live)?

Bats can be found all over the world; in forests, deserts, jungles and cities but except where it is very, very hot or really, really cold. They live on all continents except Antarctica.

Bats ___3___ (not to live/only) in caves; in fact, there are many different places they live. They ___4___ (to sleep) in trees, mines, under bridges, in bushes, and even in old buildings or barns. Some tiny South American bats ___5___ (to make) tent-like shelters out of palm tree leaves.

Bats that used to only live in caves have adapted to living in cities now. The largest bat colony of bats living in a city is under the Congress Avenue Bridge in Austin, Texas. There are about 1.5 million bats there.

How ___6___ (bats/to live)?

Most bats are nocturnal, which ___7___ (to mean) that they come out at night and feed at night too. If you go looking for them during the day, you'll probably find them all snoring while they sleep in their caves or in trees. They sleep upside down. Bats are quite friendly creatures and they quite like having sleepovers in huge groups in caves. They obviously don't like to be alone.

What ___8___ (bats/to eat)?

Many bats are insectivores. Most of the rest are frugivores. Only a few species, such as vampire bats feed on blood from other mammals like cows. Bats that eat insects depend a lot on sound and they've got super awesome hearing skills to find food in the dark.

How ___9___ (bats/to breed)?

During spring, bats ___10___ (to return) from migration or ___11___ (to wake up) from hibernation and the ladies begin having baby bats which are called "pups". The pups are born without hair and are tiny and pink, but they grow up fast. Some of them are flying and hunting on their own within a month. Bats normally have one baby at a time and sometimes they'll have twins. However, they are born with strong claws and legs because they have to hold on to their mom when she's sleeping or hang on in the cave if she's out and about.

How ___12___ (bats/to perceive and to communicate) with their environment?

Bats ___13___ (can / to see) very well even if most bats only see in black and white. Bats have the best hearing of all land mammals: their ears are huge in comparison to their bodies – ideal to hear with. However, the most important means for bats to communicate and find objects is echolocation. They use echolocation as well as dolphins. It is how bats ‘see’ in the dark. They make noises and wait for the sound waves to bounce back off objects, just like an echo. These noises ___14___ (not / can / to heard) by human ears. If the sound ___15___ (not to bounce back), it safe to push on and fly. Unbelievably echolocation ___16___ (even / can / to tell) bats how far away something is.

How ___17___ (bats/to help) the ecosystem and humans?

Tropical bats are important to rainforests. They pollinate flowers and drop seeds for many trees and bushes, such as bananas, mangos, nuts, dates and figs.

Bats’ dung is used as a fertilizer known as ‘guano’.

Bats consume insect pests, reducing the need for pesticides. A colony of just 150 big brown bats ___18___ (can / to eat) up to 18 million or more root worms each summer. This saves crops from damage which means more food is available.

What particularities ___19___ (bats/to have)?

Bat wings are quite complicated: they are made of two thin layers of skin stretched over the bat’s arm and fingers – four fingers and a thumb. Their fingers are very long when you compare them to the size of the body. If our fingers were the same as bats, they’d be longer than our legs. When bats fly, they ___20___ (just / not to flap) their wings up and down; it almost looks as if they’re pulling their way through the air. Their wings get used for many things besides flying: they wrap them around insects or fruit to hold while they’re eating.

Other interesting facts

In many cultures, bats are popularly associated with darkness, malevolence, witchcraft, vampires, and death. People often think that you can get sick from bats and that they carry rabies. They are in fact very clean and just like cats, groom themselves very well. They can get rabies, but so can all mammals.

Are the sentences below true or false and tick the respective box. If there is not enough information in the text, tick ‘?’.

	True	False	?
1. There are more than 1,200 species of bats.	☐	☐	☐
2. Bats are birds.	☐	☐	☐
3. There are bats in Siberia.	☐	☐	☐
4. Bats normally have only one baby in their lifetime.	☐	☐	☐
5. About 1.5 million bats live in Austin, Texas.	☐	☐	☐
6. Guano is a fertilizer ‘produced’ by bats.	☐	☐	☐
7. Bats can hold food with their wings.	☐	☐	☐
8. Bats are more likely to get rabies than other mammals.	☐	☐	☐

3. ‘Carnivorous beasts acquiring a taste for human flesh’: when wild wolves still plagued Luxembourg²

Author: Gerry Erang | Update: 22.07.2021 10:20

Fill the gaps (1-20) with the correct form of the past simple of the verbs in brackets.



Luxembourg's last wolf ___1___ (officially / to kill) by the examining magistrate Edouard Wolff (oh the irony) near Olingen on 24 April 1893. After the recent wolf sightings on Belgium not far from the Luxembourg border, most residents ___2___ (to be) happy to hear that wolves might return to roam the Grand Duchy's forests once more. Fair to say this

would not have been the case a couple of centuries ago...

When wolves acquired ‘a taste of human flesh’

In an early book on Luxembourg's religious history, Jesuit Jean Bertholet (1688-1755) offers a rather colourful account of a wolf plague that allegedly ___3___ (to take) place in the Grand Duchy in 1045: "The men who ___4___ (to die) in the countryside and ___5___ (to remain) without burial, were eaten by wolves; these carnivorous beasts acquiring a taste for human flesh. [The wolves] later also ___6___ (to throw) themselves upon the living and ___7___ (to kill) a great number of them." Bertholet also ___8___ (to come) up with an explanation for the attacks: in his view, they ___9___ (to represent) "Heaven's anger."

While it's somewhat difficult to prove or disprove Bertholet's account of this early wolf plague, there are countless other reports of wolf attacks in Luxembourg. Towards the end of the 18th century, France for example officially ___10___ (to call) Luxembourg the ‘Département des loups’ because of the high number of wolves roaming the country. In 1801, a forester ___11___ (to alert) the mayor of Luxembourg City to a ravenous (= hungry) pack of wolves in the Bambesch forest. The wolves, he anxiously ___12___ (to report), had already devoured pigs owned by the municipality of Strassen. Other foresters were instructed to hunt down the wolves - unfortunately there are no historical sources detailing the outcome of the hunt.

A battle between wolves and farmers in Dudelange

Another quite spectacular confrontation between humans and wolves ___13___ (to occur) in 1709, which was the year that ___14___ (to bring) the Great Frost to Europe. Temperatures reportedly

² Adapted from <https://today.rtl.lu/luxembourg-insider/history/a/1715148.html>

___15___ (to drop) to under -30°C, plunging the Grand Duchy and its neighbouring countries into famine and misery.

To make matters worse, the extreme cold and lack of food also ___16___ (to play) a key role in triggering a veritable wolf plague in Dudelange. A pack of 30 wolves ___17___ (to come) into the village from Rotenberg a day after they had already torn an 8-year-old boy to pieces. According to various sources, the farmers ___18___ (to get) hold of axes, pitchforks and other makeshift weapons and ___19___ (to have) a gory (= bloody, brutal) battle with the voracious animals. Twenty-two wolves ___20___ (to be) killed and some farmers badly injured.

Answer the questions in your own words.

1. When was Luxembourg's last wolf killed?

2. How do people feel about the return of the wolf?

3. When did Jean Bertholet live?

4. When was there a wolf plague in Luxembourg according to Jean Bertholet?

5. How did Jean Bertholet explain the wolf plague?

6. Describe what happened around 1800 in and around the city of Luxembourg with regards to wolves ?

7. What was life like in Luxembourg in 1709?

8. How did the wolves in Dudelange cope with the situation?

4. Two surprising discoveries made in Luxembourg³

Author: Christophe Wantz - adapted for RTL Today | Update: 01.12.2020 08:55

Fill the gaps (1-20) with the correct form of the past simple of the verbs in brackets (active or passive).

Whether it's minerals, fossils, or other unusual finds, many extraordinary discoveries have been made in Luxembourg. Here are two of them.

The camel of Mamer

A bizarre discovery to begin with: a camel skeleton ___1___ (to find) found at the bottom of a Roman well in Mamer. During excavations carried out by the National Centre for Archaeological Research, archaeologists ___2___ (to come) across the remains of more than 250 animals and objects dating back from Ancient Rome - the third century AD to be precise. The remains ___3___ (to find) in a well that was 12 metres deep. But how on earth ___4___ (this camel / to get) to Mamer in the first place? It ___5___ (probably / to use) as a means of transport by Roman soldiers or civilians who ___6___ (to travel) as far as Mamer before they ___7___ (to settle) ... or the camel ___8___ (to do). Some 173 bones ___9___ (to discover) in the dig. Bone analysis ___10___ (not to carry out) in Luxembourg, but in Germany by an archaeozoology department. Placing the bones in order to obtain a "real" camel skeleton ___11___ (to be) a painstaking task carried out by zoologists of the Naturmusée. The animal ___12___ (to present) to the public as part of an exhibition at the National Museum of Natural History.



Luxembourg's Plesiosaur

Plesiosaurs ___13___ (to be) long-necked marine animals which ___14___ (to have) a wide distribution in European seas and around the Pacific Ocean. They ___15___ (to live) during the Jurassic up to 185 million years ago. Found in the 1990s during an excavation in the Luxembourg commune of Sanem, the superb fossil of a plesiosaur ___16___ (to hand over) to experts at the National Museum of Natural History thanks to Guy Kronz, a scientific collaborator.

This find ___17___ (to turn) out to be the first plesiosaur with an elongated neck and graceful head found in Luxembourg. Although they ___18___ (to be) large aquatic vertebrates, plesiosaurs ___19___ (not to be) dinosaurs, they ___20___ (to be) reptiles.



³ Adapted from <https://today.rtl.lu/life/home/a/1621738.html>

5. Wolves⁴

Fill the gaps (1-20) with the correct form of the present simple of the verbs in brackets.

Introduction

Wolves are members of the dog family. They are known for their intelligence and courage. Wolves are also noted for traveling very long distances. North American Indians named their most powerful warriors after wolves.



Where ___1___ (wolves / to live)?

There are two species, or types, of wolf. The best known is the grey wolf. It ___2___ (to live) in North America, Europe, and Asia. The Ethiopian wolf was once considered a jackal. Many people now ___3___ (to believe) it is a wolf.

The red wolf was once thought to be a separate species. Now scientists ___4___ (to think) it is a cross between a grey wolf and a coyote. The red wolf used to live throughout the south-eastern United States. Now most red wolves ___5___ (to live) in captivity. Some ___6___ (still / can / to be – word order!) found in the wild in North Carolina.

What ___7___ (wolves / to look) like?

The grey wolf has long legs and large feet. The males are larger than the females. A male grey wolf usually ___8___ (to weigh) about 45 kilograms. Including the tail, it may be about 2 meters long. The grey wolf's fur ___9___ (to be) usually grey. It may also be brown, red, white, or black. The legs and belly ___10___ (to be) yellowish white.

How ___11___ (wolves / to behave)?

Wolves ___12___ (to be) social animals. They ___13___ (to live) in groups called packs. A wolf pack usually ___14___ (to have) a pair of adult wolves and their offspring. The male and female leaders are known as the alpha pair. Wolves normally ___15___ (to hunt) at night in groups. They ___16___ (to eat) deer, moose, squirrels, and mice.

___17___ (wolves / to be) endangered?

All species of wolf ___18___ (to be) in danger of dying out. This is partly because their habitats are being destroyed. People also ___19___ (to kill) wolves because the wolves ___20___ (to attack) cattle. Today there are many programs to protect wolves.

⁴ Adapted from <https://kids.britannica.com/kids/article/wolf/353930>

6. How will the presence of a wolf affect the lives of farmers in Luxembourg?⁵



Author: Pit Everling - adapted for RTL Today |

Update: 13.01.2022 10:51

Fill the gaps (1-20) with the correct form of the past simple or the present simple of the verbs in brackets.

Our colleagues from RTL ___1___ (to speak) to Laurent Schley, Raymond Baulesch and Christian

Wester on 13 January 2022 about the wolf sighting and its consequences for the sector.

The Nature and Forest administration ___2___ (to confirm) that a wolf had been photographed near Wincrange the Tuesday before. How will this presence affect human and animal lives in the region?

In the interview, Laurent Schley, deputy director of the administration, ___3___ (to provide) insights as to how one ___4___ (can / to recognise) a wolf: "The ears ___5___ (not / can / to be) overly pointy, otherwise it's likely to be a dog. Wolf ears ___6___ (to tend) to be a bit shorter and rounder." Similarly, their tails ___7___ (to be) relatively short in comparison to dogs.

There is no doubt that the animal spotted in Wincrange is a wolf since there has recently also been a sighting in Bourcy in Belgium. Authorities ___8___ (to estimate) that the wolf has been in the region for a while, but it is difficult to assess whether it will stay or whether it is only passing through.

According to Schley, mating could have an effect on the animal's moves: "If it is a solitary animal, it is likely to leave once it ___9___ (to fail) to find a mate."

Potential conflicts

Wolves tend to shy away from human contact, which ___10___ (to make) an encounter highly unlikely. In case of meeting a wolf that will not immediately leave, people are advised to raise their voice as well as their arms to make their presence clear.

Wolves usually ___11___ (to feed) on game (= wild animals), but also farm animals such as sheep, which is the major cause of conflict with humans. A respective action and management plan has been in place since 2017, which also ___12___ (to provide) cost coverage in case of lost farm animals.

Nevertheless, it ___13___ (to remain) difficult to protect oneself against wolves, ___14___ (to say) Raymond Baulesch, president of the Sheep Farmers Association, in the interview last Thursday: "We

⁵ Adapted from <https://today.rtl.lu/news/luxembourg/a/1846447.html>

___15___ (not / can / to close) off our grass fields with two-metre-high barriers. Sheep farmers in the Oesling region have to start thinking about measures though. We ___16___ (not to want) the wolf to be shot but have to find a solution still. Support from the government should be greater."

When he was interviewed Christian Wester, president of the Luxembourg Farmers Association (Bauernzentral), ___17___ (to explain) that the action and management plan were going in the right direction, but that overall support from the government should be increased: "Farmers are only compensated for the loss of animal if its death can be traced back to a wolf with absolute certainty. Procedures are lengthy and this ___18___ (not to sit) well with many in the sector."

Christian Wester further ___19___ (to lament) that indirect consequences were not being considered. Safety fences are only subsidised if the presence of a wolf has been officially confirmed. It thus ___20___ (to remain) difficult for farmers to take any preventive measures.

The Wolf spotted near Wincrange could be a solitary animal, but wolf packs have already been seen forming in some places abroad, like for instance in the German-Belgian border region near Hohen Venn. Laurent Schley estimates that the first pack in Luxembourg is only a question of time.

Match the verbs from the text (1-9) with the definitions (a-i)

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| 1. to affect | a. to have an influence on somebody / something, or to cause a change in somebody / something |
| 2. to assess | b. to judge or decide the amount, value, quality or importance of something |
| 3. to fail | c. not to succeed in what you are trying to achieve or expected to do |
| 4. to lose | d. to be unable to find something / somebody |
| 5. to provide | e. to give somebody something that they need |
| 6. to raise | f. to lift or move something to a higher position |
| 7. to shy away from | g. to avoid something that you dislike, fear or do not feel confident about |
| 8. to spot | h. to see or notice a person or thing, especially suddenly when it is not easy to do so |
| 9. to trace | i. to find or discover somebody / something by looking carefully for them / it |

Write your answers here

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

7. Foxes

Fill the gaps (1-20) with the correct form of the present simple of the verbs in brackets.

The fox is a member of the dog family and is thus a distant relative of the wolf. There are 21 species of fox. The red fox is the most famous one.



Foxes have a lifespan of 2 to 5 years, but some have lived to be 14 years old in captivity.

What ___1___ (foxes/to look) like?

Most foxes are about the size of a large house cat. Foxes can range in height from 35 to 45 inches and weigh approximately 15 pounds.

Where ___2___ (foxes/to live)?

Foxes ___3___ (to adapt) very easily to their environment and can live in the countryside or in towns. They ___4___ (to make) their home under sheds, in the hollow of trees, in ground burrows, and in wood piles. A fox's home is called a den.

How ___5___ (foxes/to live)?

Foxes hunt mainly at night because they are nocturnal animals. They ___6___ (not to live) in a pack. They ___7___ (to live) and ___8___ (to hunt) alone.

What ___9___ (foxes/to eat)?

Foxes ___10___ (to eat) almost anything, including berries, worms, spiders and even jam sandwiches. However, basically foxes are carnivores, which ___11___ (to mean) they ___12___ (to eat) meat. Their diet ___13___ (to include) rodents, rabbits, insects and small birds. If they live near a farm, they will raid the hen house and steal the chickens. Foxes ___14___ (to hide) food to eat later.

How ___15___ (foxes/to breed)?

Foxes ___16___ (to breed) between December and February. In the spring, the female may produce a litter of 4 to 5 cubs. The cubs no fur and are blind. The mother ___17___ (to have) her litter in a den. She ___18___ (not to leave) the den for the first two weeks after the cubs are born. The female ___19___ (to nurse) her cubs. When the cubs are about 4 weeks old they begin to venture out of the den. They will leave their mother sometime between 6 and 12 months of age. A fox can mate when they reach 10 months of age.

How ___20___ (foxes/to perceive and to communicate) with their environment?

A fox's hearing is so sharp they can hear a watch ticking 40 yards away. They can also hear something moving underground. Foxes use 28 different types of calls to communicate with each other.

Other interesting facts

The fox also has many similarities to a cat: they have vertical slit eyes and partially retractable claws; they are excellent tree climbers and mark their territory by the scent of urine. They also hunt like a cat. They stalk their prey just like cats. They often play with their prey before they kill it. A fox can run 30 miles per hour.

8. Hares

Fill the gaps (1-20) with the correct form of the present simple of the verbs in brackets.

What ___1___ (hares/to look) like?

Hares ___2___ (to be) usually larger than rabbits and ___3___ (to have) longer ears.



Where ___4___ (hares/to live)?

Hares ___5___ (can / to be) found in Africa, Eurasia, North America, and some parts of Japan. They ___6___ (to like) to live in areas that have plenty of trees, bushes, and other vegetation that can hide them. They also like to have wide open space to run around.

How ___7___ (hares/to live)?

Hares ___8___ (to live/usually) by themselves or in pairs.

What ___9___ (hares/to eat)?

Hares are herbivores, which ___10___ (to mean) that they only eat plants. Their favourite food ___11___ (to be) grass, but they will also eat flowers, seeds, vegetables, and fruits.

How ___12___ (hares/to breed)?

Hares ___13___ (to give) birth in open areas such as fields or meadows. Hares are born with fur and their eyes open.

What particularities ___14___ (hares/to have)?

Hares are some of the fastest small mammals in the world: they ___15___ at speeds up to 72 kph (45 mph).

Other interesting facts

Hares ___16___ (to belong) to the same family as rabbits but are a different species. Hares ___17___ (to have) many features that ___18___ (to make) them special and unique. Hares ___19___ (to be) larger than rabbits and have longer ears. Hares will give birth to their babies in open areas while rabbits ___20___ (to give) birth in burrows that ___21___ (to be) hidden. Because they are born with less protection, hares are fully covered in fur and have their eyes wide open when they are born. Hares are wild animals while people will keep rabbits as house pets.

9. Deer

Fill the gaps (1-20) with the correct form of the present simple of the verbs in brackets.



What ___1___ (deer/to look) like?

Deer ___2___ (to tend) to be recognized by their antlers and their fluffy white tails. Almost all male deer ___3___ (to have) antlers. The antlers ___4___ (to drop) off after the mating season and their main use ___5___ (to be) for males to fight for females. Though of a similar build, deer are different from antelopes because of their antlers, which are temporary and are replaced by new ones every year.

Where ___6___ (deer/to live)?

Deer originally lived in the northern hemisphere, and now ___7___ (to be) native to Europe, Asia, North America and South America. Humans introduced deer to Australia, New Zealand and South Africa. Deer ___8___ (to like) to live in a variety of biomes, ranging from tundra to the tropical rainforest. In hot weather, deer ___9___ (to prefer) fields and forests with tall trees for shade. In the cold winters, they ___10___ (to stay/usually) near thick forests with strong trees to protect them from strong winds and snow.

How ___11___ (deer/to live)?

Deer ___12___ (not to make) nests or dens. They find a safe and comfortable place to rest under low hanging evergreen branches. They stay close to where they can find food.

What ___13___ (deer/to eat)?

Deer are herbivores, which means that they only eat plants and grass. They ___14___ (not to be) picky eaters and will snack on almost any kind of plants they can find. They are even big fans of berries and flowers. They ___15___ (not to store) their food for the winter. If the snow is not deep, they use their hooves to uncover moss and leaves. If the snow is deep, they eat twigs and branches. Deer are ruminants, or cud-chewers, and have a four-chambered stomach.

How ___16___ (deer/to breed)?

The doe usually ___17___ (to have) 1 or 2 fawns in the spring. The fawn ___18___ (can / to stand) immediately after birth but ___19___ (to be) weak. The doe will hide each fawn in a different place.

Other interesting facts

Deer have many ways they can protect themselves from other animals that are trying to hunt them. First, deer have excellent camouflage and use this to hide from threats. Moreover, they are very fast runners and ___20___ (to use) this as their first choice of protection. Deer can run up to 30 miles per hour when they are scared or are trying to escape from a predator. They are also very good swimmers so can go through streams or other bodies of water to get away. Deer can also jump as high as 10 feet and as far as 30 feet, which is almost as long as a school bus.

10. Squirrels

Fill the gaps (1-20) with the correct form of the present simple of the verbs in brackets.



Squirrels are small-sized rodents that are widely distributed around

the globe. They are shy but they ___1___ (to interact) with humans in urban areas where they are fed.

What ___2___ (squirrel/to look) like?

Red squirrels ___3___ (to have) tan brown coats and quite bushy tails.

Where ___4___ (squirrel/to live)?

The more than 200 different species of squirrel live all over the world. Squirrels are native to every continent, with the exception of Antarctica and Australia. Depending on the location, however, squirrels are recognized by their unique coloration and physical features.

Where ___5___ (squirrels/live)?

Red squirrels are tree squirrels. They hibernate when the outside temperatures go down in winter. During hibernation they ___6___ (to reduce) the body temperature and energetic requirements, which is why they need not feed too often during the cold winter days.

How ___7___ (squirrel/to live)?

Most tree-dwelling squirrels ___8___ (to prefer) to live alone. They will, however, group together during especially cold weather.

What ___9___ (squirrel/to eat)?

While squirrels ___10___ (to be) famous for their love of nuts, they are omnivores – meaning they eat plants and meat. They have been known to eat many different kinds of meat and will occasionally scavenge off of carcasses.

How ___11___ (squirrel/to breed)?

The mating season ___12___ (to range) from February to March in winter, whereas in summer June and July are the mating months. After about 40 days, females give birth to 3 – 5 young annually. These young ___13___ (to be) blind when they're born. They ___14___ (to begin) to see after 3 to 4 weeks. The young ___15___ (to develop) their teeth in 42 days. After 40 days, these young animals ___16___ (to eat) solid food. The mother will continue to suckle its young for about 8 – 10 weeks.

How ___17___ (squirrel/to perceive and to communicate) with their environment?

A squirrel ___18___ (to have) large eyes, which ___19___ (to enable) it to see where it is going when climbing trees and escaping from predators who might attack them. Squirrels ___20___ (to be) masters at finding their hidden nuts. The ones they don't find will often grow into trees.

Other interesting facts

Squirrels are rodents, and their front teeth will continue to grow throughout their lives.

11. Sloppy saviours: the water buffaloes wallowing in the mud⁶

BY YANNICK LAMBERT/ 25.05.2022

Fill the gaps (1-20) with the correct form of the present simple of the verbs in brackets.



One small field in Luxembourg provides a glimmer of hope for nature to recover from a decades-long onslaught of industrial-scale agriculture

The small herd of water buffaloes ___1___ (to continue) their slow trot away from us as we ___2___ (to step) onto the swampy meadow in the early spring sun. When we ___3___ (to follow) them, the massive bull and six cows and calves graciously ___4___ (to pose) for a few photos.

Mud ___5___ (to be) the reason that the animals ___6___ (to be) here, ___7___ (to say) government biologist Philip Birget, who is taking us on a tour of the 25-hectares 'Schlammwiss' nature reserve.

The dark-skinned animals ___8___ (to like) to roll around in mud, covering themselves in it, which ___9___ (to help) them regulate their body temperature in the hotter climates they ___10___ (to originate) from.

The holes they ___11___ (to dig) with their horns form brilliant places for insects to live, for frogs to hatch their eggs and for birds to forage.

The idyllic scenery here ___12___ (to stand) in sharp contrast with the degraded landscapes almost anywhere else in Luxembourg which ___13___ (to be) the result of intensive agriculture.

Intensive agriculture ___14___ (to be) one of the main causes for the loss of nature across the EU – despite the fact that there ___15___ (to be) alternative farming methods that ___16___ (can / to support) a rich array (= selection) of flowers, insects and birds.

The 'Schlammwiss' shows how quickly nature ___17___ (to return) when you ___18___ (to give) it some breathing space.

The wetlands the buffaloes have created are now home to many rare and endangered birds, such as the water rail, the marsh warbler and the common reed bunting (= 3 kinds of birds). And even the aquatic warbler – one of Europe's rarest birds – ___19___ (to pass) through here. 'It ___20___ (not to breed) here, but the ringing station (= place where they put rings on birds to keep track of them) nearby sees it come through here every spring and autumn'.

⁶ Adapted from: <https://www.luxtimes.lu/en/luxembourg/sloppy-saviours-the-water-buffaloes-wallowing-in-the-mud-628cae99de135b9236ef5ed0>

12. Eichen-prozessionsspinner⁷

RTL | Update: 17.06.2021 08:57

Fill the gaps (1-20) with the correct form of the present simple of the verbs in brackets.



AKA Oak processionary moth AKA irritating little wrigglers AKA bane (= misery, curse) of last summer. Despite lock down, restricting movement (these pesky crawlers don't care a bit), rambler (= walkers) might end up in the woods, or even unknowingly neighbouring a nest.

Just what ___1___ (to be) the oak processionary moth?

The oak processionary moth ___2___ (to be) a species of moth with caterpillars that nest on oak trees. The caterpillars ___3___ (to be) covered in small hairs which ___4___ (to be) rather painful and ___5___ (can / to cause) serious allergic reaction in humans.

To minimise health risks:

Do not touch or approach oak processionary moth caterpillars or their nests. It's not that they get territorial, but rather the hairs are very fine and carry easy on the wind. Plus, there are loads of them. Do not let children or animals touch or approach the caterpillars or nests, per above reasons. Do not try and remove the caterpillars or nest yourself, per the obvious risks and above reasons.

What exactly ___6___ (they / to do) to the tree?

Although there is just the one generation of oak processionary moth per year they ___7___ (to do) a heck of a lot of damage considering how small they ___8___ (to be). The caterpillars ___9___ (to hatch) in spring and ___10___ (to go) through several developmental stages, eventually developing the irritating hairs. The caterpillars ___11___ (to descend) lower down the tree as they ___13___ (to develop), stripping the tree of its leaves as they ___12___ (to go), leaving it vulnerable and weakened. In summer, the wrigglers ___14___ (to retreat) into nests and pupate, with the adult moths emerging in late summer. The moths ___15___ (to hang) about for only four days in order to mate before popping off the mortal coil (= dying). The female ___16___ (to lay) her fertilised eggs high in the treetop, and the cycle ___17___ (to begin) again.

What ___18___ (oak processionary moth damage / to look) like?

The oak processionary moth ___19___ (to feed) and ___20___ (to live) almost exclusively on oak trees. An infested tree will display symptoms which include:

- Caterpillars in procession on the trunk nose-to-tail in late spring and early summer. The procession is sometimes arrow-shaped with one leader and rows of caterpillars following.
- Nests on trunks and larger branches of oak trees. They are made of distinctive white silken webbing that fades to a light brown colour.
- Dislodged nests on the ground near oak trees.

⁷ Adapted from: <https://today.rtl.lu/your-luxembourg/knowledge-bites/a/1382905.html>

13. Invasive alien freshwater jellyfish Craspedacusta sowerbii spotted in Upper Sûre Lake⁸

Fill the gaps (1-20) with the correct form of the present simple or the past simple tense (active or passive) of the verbs in brackets.



At the beginning of September 2020, freshwater jellyfish ___1___ (to spot) in the Upper Sûre Lake. Photographs of this jellyfish ___2___ (to send) by divers from the CGDIS Frogmen Group to the Water Management Administration (AGE) and the Nature and Forest Administration (ANF). This observation ___3___ (to make) it possible to confirm the presence of the Craspedacusta sowerbii jellyfish in the Upper Sûre Lake.

It is true that the term 'jellyfish' ___4___ (to be) reminiscent of marine species with a stinging nature, which ___5___ (can / to trigger) painful skin reactions, similar to a burn, on direct contact with the animal. The freshwater jellyfish, on the other hand, ___6___ (to be) a harmless relative. Although it ___7___ (to belong) to the group of cnidarians, it ___8___ (to be) completely harmless to humans.

Originally from Asia, the freshwater jellyfish ___9___ (can / to find) other parts of the world mainly due to the introduction of aquatic plants and fish. This invasive alien species ___10___ (to be) no larger than 25 mm in diameter and ___11___ (to prefer) calm, stagnant waters that warm up considerably in summer.

As this jellyfish ___12___ (to require) temperatures often above 20°C over a long period of time, its appearance ___13___ (to take) place from July to October with a peak observed from the end of August to the beginning of September.

It should also be noted that these jellyfish ___14___ (to prefer) clean water. In the evening, they often ___15___ (to come) to the surface of the water and ___16___ (can / to be) observed there. They ___17___ (also / can / to be) admired when diving at greater depths during the day. These jellyfish have also been reported in other surrounding areas. It is very likely that their proliferation will continue as the climate ___18___ (to warm).

The problem of the appearance of blue-green algae (cyanobacteria), which is a real concern in many respects for the Upper Sûre Lake, is a phenomenon totally independent of the appearance of the freshwater jellyfish observed and described in this press release.

If you ___19___ (to see) any jellyfish, you ___20___ (can / to report) them at the following address: peche@eau.etat.lu.

⁸ Adapted from <https://neobiota.lu/invasive-alien-freshwater-jellyfish-craspedacusta-sowerbii-spotted-in-upper-sure-lake/>

14. Turtles at Echternach lake⁹

05.07.2014



Fill the gaps (1-20) with the correct form of the present simple or the past simple tense (active or passive) of the verbs in brackets.

An impressive colony of about 20 turtles ___1___ (to live) and ___2___ (to thrive) in and around Echternach Lake, but how ___3___ (to get) there in the first place?

(ADW) Despite coming from warmer climes, they also ___4___ (to seem) quite comfortable with Luxembourg weather: about 20 turtles have settled around Echternach Lake, but where ___5___ (they / to come) from? If you ___6___ (to go) for a walk you ___7___ (can / to watch) the turtles, depending on the weather, swimming, crawling on logs or sunning themselves on the banks of the artificial lake. The colony of Painted Turtles ___8___ (to be) certainly a curiosity as the animals ___9___ (to be) normally accustomed to the much warmer climate of sunny Florida. The turtles have been specifically identified as yellow-bellied slider turtles, and ___10___ (to be) first spotted in Echternach in 2012. They are doing well and ___11___ (to appear) to enjoy Luxembourg life, but just how they ___12___ (to end) up there in the first place ___13___ (to remain) a mystery. It is believed that a pet-owner ___14___ (to release) several into the wild. The Echternach Commune ___15___ (certainly / not to involve). The colony ___16___ (to be) breeding and increasing in numbers too 'I myself have seen females placing eggs in the sand on the banks' ___17___ (to state) nature lover Anne-Ly Mertens, who ___18___ (to upload) a whole series of photos on [mywort.lu](https://www.mywort.lu), some of which we have used in this article. Painted turtles ___19___ (to eat) plants and, to a lesser extent, small creatures. Whether or not the relative newcomers to the lake have changed the ecological balance of their surroundings ___20___ (not to be) known, but they are certainly an original attraction for Echternach.

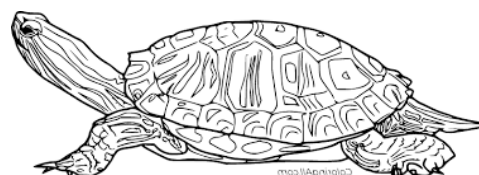
⁹ Adapted from <https://www.luxtimes.lu/en/luxembourg/turtles-thrive-at-echternach-lake-but-how-did-they-get-there-602d3b00de135b92363483ef>

15. Seventy-two turtles captured and euthanized at Rëmerschen nature reserve¹⁰

RTL | Update: 13.05.2022 08:46

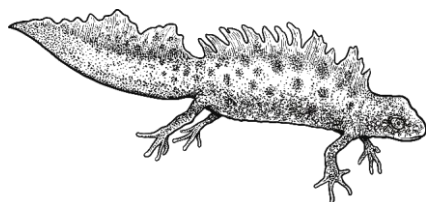
Fill the gaps (1-20) with the correct form of the present simple or the past simple tense (active or passive) of the verbs in brackets.

On 13 May 2022 the Ministry of the Environment
 ___1___ (to confirm) that a number of turtles had
 been captured with "turtle traps" and euthanized
 at the "Haff Réimech" nature reserve near
 Remerschen. Minister of the Environment Joëlle
 Welfring ___2___ (to respond) to a parliamentary



Trachemys scripta / pond slider turtle

question issued by Pirate MP Marc Goergen, confirming that 72 turtles had been put to sleep by a vet. Tiago de Sousa of the Nature and Forest Agency ___3___ (to explain) that the 'trachemys scripta' turtles, or pond sliders, ___4___ (to consider) an invasive exotic species which ___5___ (to pose) a threat to local flora and fauna, such as great crested newts. An EU regulation ___6___ (to mean) that local authorities ___7___ (to have) an obligation to take action against such species, de Sousa ___8___ (to add). The Ministry of the Environment, following consultations with the Nature and Forest Agency and Luxembourg's veterinary association, ___9___ (to agree) that the turtles should be humanely captured and put to



Great crested newt

sleep. Invasive species ___10___ (to be) among the top 5 reasons for loss of biodiversity. The pond slider turtles ___11___ (to be) particularly tricky, as they ___12___ (to be) omnivores and thus ___13___ (to pose) a threat not only to aquatic plants, but also fish and invertebrates, including the endangered great crested newt. De Sousa ___14___ (to

explain) it ___15___ (not to be) always possible to relocate the animals in sanctuaries due to limited capacity, as it could mean that private owners would then lack the option to give away their own pets. The Ministry ___16___ (to suspect) the turtles' initial presence in Remerschen ___17___ (to be) due to creatures being released into the wild by former owners in the first place, then going on to breed. It ___18___ (to be) not feasible to rehouse the turtles in this instance, de Sousa ___19___ (to add), due to the high number and the fact such a turtle's lifespan ___20___ (can / to exceed) 30 years.

Find words and expressions in the text which mean

1. to kill

2. to kill

¹⁰ Adapted from <https://today.rtl.lu/news/luxembourg/a/1912553.html>

16. New brochure on raccoons, raccoon dogs in Luxembourg published¹¹

Published on Thursday, 17 Feb 2022 15:22 by KH

Credit: Laurent Schley



Fill the gaps (1-20) with the correct form of the present simple or the past simple tense (active or passive) of the verbs in brackets.

On 17 February, Luxembourg's Nature and Forest Agency ___1___ (to unveil) a new brochure on raccoons (*Procyon lotor*) and raccoon dogs (*Nyctereutes procyonoides*).

The raccoon and the raccoon dog ___2___ (to belong) to the so-called group "invasive alien species" as they ___3___ (to introduce) to Europe from outside and ___4___ (can / to spread) to several countries on the continent, including Luxembourg.

These two mammals, although they ___5___ (to look) alike, ___6___ (to have) neither the same origin nor the same history. Throughout the pages of the '*Waschbären & Marderhunde*' in Luxembourg brochure, several aspects of these two species ___7___ (to present and explain). The brochure ___8___ (to be) produced by the Nature and Forest Agency and the National Museum of Natural History.

Although the raccoon ___9___ (to be) already quite well known in popular culture, several questions still ___10___ (to arise) such as: Where ___11___ (it / to live)? What ___12___ (it / to feed) on?

Moreover, as the presence of the raccoon in an urban environment ___13___ (can / to cause) conflicts, particular attention has been given to this aspect, so that the potential impacts of the species ___14___ (to minimise) minimise.

As for the raccoon dog, it ___15___ (to be) a more discreet species that ___16___ (to appear) in Luxembourg only last year. Originally coming from East Asia, 9,000 raccoon dogs ___17___ (to release) for hunting in Eastern Russia and Ukraine between 1929 and 1955. Several interesting facts about its arrival in the European continent and its biology ___18___ (to present) in the brochure.

A digital version of the German-language brochure ___19___ (can / to obtain) from the website of Luxembourg's Ministry of the Environment, Climate and Sustainable Development ([emwelt.lu](https://www.emwelt.lu)). The brochure ___20___ (to be) available in paper format by contacting the Nature and Forest Agency via email: nature@anf.etat.lu.

¹¹ Adapted from <https://chronicle.lu/category/environment/39657-new-brochure-on-raccoons-raccoon-dogs-in-luxembourg-published>

17. What kind of damage is the wild sheep population in Echternach causing?¹²

Author: Monica Camposeo (Radio) | Update: 09.03.2020 15:06

Fill the gaps (1-20) with the correct form of the present simple or the past simple tense (active or passive) of the verbs in brackets.



Mouflon wild sheep ___1___ (to find) in the Our valley, the northern Sûre river area and surrounding Echternach. The sheep themselves ___2___ (to be) an invasive species and ___3___ (to cause) damage to the land they ___4___ (to flock) to. Yet the decision to cull (= kill) the sheep has been deeply unpopular.

Wild sheep are causing considerable damage to the woods surrounding Echternach, which lead the Ministry of the Environment to announce an administrative hunt. The decision was criticised over social media, some individuals even suggested shooting the minister instead.

'But what kind of damage ___5___ (wild sheep / to cause)?' our RTL Radio colleague Monica Camposeo wanted to know.

The number of mouflon wild sheep in the vicinity of Echternach ___6___ (to estimate) at 150. The Nature Management Agency reported the large number of sheep is causing massive damage to the forests. A forester took RTL's team to the woods to show the evidence. The proof was visible at one spot, showing how sheep biting a tree had damaged the beech's natural regeneration. The trees ___7___ (not / can / to grow) correctly because sheep tend to continuously bite them.

Added to the issue is that the sheep also ___8___ (to cause) damage to trees by eating the bark. This ___9___ (to make) trees more vulnerable to disease.

Dr Laurent Schley, Nature Management Agency biologist, said it was crystal clear which animal is causing the damage. For one, he explained, there is no mass population of deer in the woods, and they ___10___ (not to eat) the bark anyway. Also, the damage occurred at the height of sheep rather than deer. The sheep are the only possible perpetrators in the forest.

The fact that there are so many sheep ___11___ (can / to attribute) to many reasons. For one, hunts ___12___ (to tend) to focus too much on male animals, which ___13___ (not to lead) to a natural

¹² Adapted from <https://today.rtl.lu/news/luxembourg/a/1480578.html>

selection, like with predators such as wolves. The shooting plan as stipulated in the 2011 hunting law has thus not met its targets.

Dr Schley said while he personally ___14___ (not to take part) in hunts, he ___15___ (to believe) it is important to act now after years of inaction. The situation has since become unacceptable, the biologist explained.

Given the emotional discourse on social media, Dr Schley pointed out there ___16___ (to be) a discrepancy between the reaction to the cull and reactions to hunts in general, which ___17___ (not to provoke) as significant an uproar. "This is an administrative hunt of 52 sheep. If you ___18___ (to look) at the total figures of animals shot throughout Luxembourg, the figure ___19___ (to reach) 15,000. It's not exactly clear why there is an issue with these 52 sheep." He concluded that administrative hunts ___20___ (strictly / to regulate), adding that the hunt will be a hiding one, and that the flesh of the shot animals will be repurposed, rather than wasted.

Answer the questions in your own words.

1. How do people in general feel about the cull?

2. What is the problem with the mouflon wild sheep?

3. How did the news of the cull spread?

4. How do the authorities know the damage to the trees is not caused by deer?

5. Why is there such a big number of sheep??

6. What is supposed to happen to the sheep after they have been killed?

18. Asian hornet spotted in Luxembourg for first time¹³

RTL | Update: 01.10.2020 08:32

Read the text below, then answer the questions.



© Administration de la nature et des forêts

The Nature and Forest Administration issued a statement advising people to report sightings of the Asian yellow-legged hornet, or 'Vespa velutina nigrithorax'.

Although the Asian hornet has been present in France since 2004, it has now been spotted in the Grand Duchy for the first time only now. There have

been sightings in Junglinster, Esch-sur Alzette and Ingeldorf.

According to the press release published on Monday, the Asian hornet is not generally aggressive, but nests should be professionally removed as the hornets can disturb the bee population.

It is advised not to approach their nests without professional assistance, as the hornets can become defensive, which increases the risk of being stung.

The hornets are identifiable by their dark bodies, which give them their Latin name, as well as the yellow legs.

The Nature and Forest Administration requested that sightings be reported to the administration or to the National Museum of Natural History, either by filling in the form linked [here](#) or by emailing vespa@neobiota.lu.

Emails should contain the address or geographical location of the sighting, as well as photos where possible.

Are the sentences below true or false and tick the respective box. If there is not enough information in the text, tick '?'.

	True	False	?
1. The text is an appeal by the Nature and Forest Administration asking the public for help.	☐	☐	☐
2. The Asian yellow-legged hornet arrived in Luxembourg in 2004.	☐	☐	☐
3. The Asian yellow-legged hornet is particularly dangerous because it is very violent.	☐	☐	☐
4. The Asian yellow-legged hornets endanger the bees.	☐	☐	☐
5. The Asian yellow-legged hornets do not sting.	☐	☐	☐
6. The Nature and Forest Administration destroy the nests of the Asian yellow-legged hornets.	☐	☐	☐

¹³ Adapted from <https://today.rtl.lu/news/luxembourg/a/1587428.html>

GLOSSARY

Unit 1

[number]-fold	[number] times as big or as much
bat	a small animal like a mouse with wings that flies at night
blessing	God's help and protection, or a prayer asking for this
disease	an illness affecting humans, animals or plants, often caused by infection
fable	traditional short story that teaches a moral lesson, especially one with animals as characters
longevity	long life; the fact of lasting a long time
messenger	someone who takes a message or documents from one person to another
mistakenly	wrongly, or by mistake
plague	a disease spread by rats that causes a high temperature, swellings on the body and usually death
representative	someone who speaks or does something officially for another person or group of people
resident	a person who lives in a particular place or who has their home there
sorcery	a type of magic in which spirits, especially evil ones, are used
spirit	the form of a dead person, similar to a ghost, or the feeling that a dead person is present although you cannot see them
sustenance	the food and drink that people, animals and plants need to live and stay healthy
to feed	to give food to a person or an animal
to hunt	to chase and try to catch and kill an animal for food, sport or to make money
to shift	to move, or move something, from one position or place to another
to spread	to cover or reach a wider or increasing area, or to make something do this
tribe	a group of people, often of related families, who live together, sharing the same language, culture, and history, especially those who do not live in towns or cities
wing	the parts of the body that a bird, insect or bat uses for flying
witchcraft	the activity of performing magic to help or harm other people

Unit 2

average	the result you get by adding two or more amounts together and dividing the total by the number of amounts
awesome	which causes feelings of great admiration, respect and fear
barn	a large building on a farm in which animals or hay (= dried grass) and grain are kept
blood	the red liquid that is sent around the body by the heart, and carries oxygen and important substances to organs and tissue, and removes waste products
cave	a large hole in the side of a hill, cliff, or mountain, or one that is underground
colony	a group of animals, insects, or plants of the same type that live together

crop	a plant such as a grain, fruit, or vegetable grown in large amounts
dung	solid waste / excrement from animals, especially cattle and horses
echolocation	a process in which animals, for example bats, find their way in the dark by producing sound waves that echo (= are heard again) when they are reflected off an object
feather	one of the many soft, light elements that cover a bird's body
featherless	which has no feathers, which is naked
fertilizer	a natural or chemical substance that is spread on the land or given to plants, to make plants grow well
frugivore	an animal that eats fruit
hibernation	a state like deep sleep in which some animals spend the winter
insectivore	an animal that eats insects
malevolence	a desire to harm other people
mammal	any animal that gives birth to live young, not eggs, and feeds its young on milk
nocturnal	(of animals) active at night
pesticide	a chemical used for killing pests, especially insects
pup	a young animal of various species
rabies	a disease of mammals that causes madness and death; animals with the disease can pass it to humans by biting them
rodent	any small animal that belongs to a group of animals with strong sharp front teeth, such as mice, rats and squirrels are all rodents.
seed	the small hard part produced by a plant, from which a new plant can grow
sleepover	a visit to another person's home to spend the night
species	a group into which animals, plants, etc. that are able to have sex with each other and produce healthy young are divided
to drop	to fall or to allow something to fall
to flap	to wave something, especially wings when or as if flying
to groom	to clean an animal, often by brushing its fur
to hold	to take and keep something in your hand or arms
to pollinate	to take pollen from one plant or part of a plant to another so that new plant seeds can be produced
to snore	to breathe in a very noisy way when you sleep
wingspan	the distance between the ends of the wings of a bird, insect, or aircraft

Unit 3

archaeologist	someone who studies the buildings, graves, tools, and other objects of people who lived in the past
bizarre	very strange or unusual
bone	any of the hard parts that form the skeleton of the body of a human or an animal
civilian	a person who is not a member of the armed forces or the police
elongated	long and thin, often in a way that is unusual

excavation	the act of removing earth that is covering very old objects buried in the ground in order to discover things about the past:
marine	connected with the sea and the creatures and plants that live there
means	a method or way of doing something
painstaking	done with a lot of care, effort and attention to detail
remains	pieces or parts of something that continue to exist when most of it has been used, destroyed, or taken away
skeleton	the structure of bones that supports the body of a person or an animal
to hand over	to give something to someone else
to settle	to go and live somewhere, especially permanently
vertebrate	an animal that has a spine
well	a deep hole in the ground from which you can get water, oil, or gas
Unit 4	
according to	as stated or reported by somebody
account	a written or spoken description of an event
allegedly	expressed as though something is a fact but without giving any proof
anger	the strong feeling that people have when something has happened that they consider to be bad and unfair
anxiously	in a way that shows that a person is worried or nervous
axe	a tool that has a heavy iron or steel blade at the end of a long wooden handle, used for cutting wood
beast	an animal, especially a large or wild one
border	the line that divides two countries or areas
burial	the act of putting a dead body into the ground, or the ceremony connected with this
carnivorous	relating to a person, animal, or other living thing that eats meat
famine	a situation in which there is not enough food for a great number of people, causing illness and death
flesh	the soft part of the body of a person or animal that is between the skin and the bones, or the soft inside part of a fruit or vegetable
injured	hurt or physically harmed
lack	the fact that something is not available or that there is not enough of it
magistrate	a person who acts as a judge in a law court that deals with crimes that are less serious
makeshift	used temporarily for a particular purpose because the real thing is not available, usually of poor quality
mayor	the head of the government of a town or city, etc., elected by the public
misery	great unhappiness
municipality	a city or town with its own local government, or the local government itself
pitchfork	a farm tool in the shape of a large fork with a long handle and two or three sharp metal points, used especially for lifting and moving hay (= dried grass), etc.

sighting	an occasion when something or someone, especially something that is rare or trying to hide, is seen
to acquire	to get or obtain something
to alert	to warn someone of a possibly dangerous situation
to come up with	to find or produce an answer, a sum of money, etc.
to devour	to eat all of something quickly, especially because you are very hungry
to disprove	to show that something is wrong or false
to drop	to cause something to fall by accident or deliberately
to make matters worse	to make an already bad or difficult situation worse
to plague	to cause pain or trouble to somebody / something over a period of time
to plunge	to cause someone or something to fall suddenly and often a long way forward, down, or into something
to roam	to walk or travel around an area without any definite aim or direction
to tear	to damage something by pulling it apart or into pieces
to trigger	to make something happen suddenly
voracious	eating or wanting large amounts of food

Unit 5

cattle	a group of animals that includes cows, buffalo, and bison, that are often kept for their milk or meat
courage	the ability to control your fear in a dangerous or difficult situation
cross	a mixture of two different things, breeds (= types) of animal, etc.
habitat	the place where a particular type of animal or plant is normally found
jackal	a wild animal like a dog that lives in Africa and southern Asia and eats animals that have died or been killed by others
moose	a type of large deer with large, flat horns and a long nose that lives in the forests of North America, northern Europe, and Asia
pack	a group of animals, such as dogs, that live and/or hunt together
squirrel	a small animal (rodent) with a long, thick tail and red, grey or black fur
warrior	a person who fights in a battle or war

Unit 6

against	opposing or disagreeing with somebody/something
coverage	the reporting of a particular important event or subject
fence	structure made of wood or wire supported with posts that is put between two areas of land, a garden, field, etc. as a boundary
insight	an understanding of what something is like
lengthy	continuing for a long time
mating	sex between animals
otherwise	if you do not follow an order or suggestion, it will result in ...
overall	in general and including all the people or things in a particular group or situation

pointy	with a point at one end
procedure	a way of doing something, especially the usual or correct way
solitary	done alone, without other people
tail	a part of an animal's body, sticking out from the back
to affect	to have an influence on somebody / something, or to cause a change in somebody / something
to assess	to judge or decide the amount, value, quality or importance of something
to fail	not to succeed in what you are trying to achieve or expected to do
to lose	to be unable to find something / somebody
to provide	to give somebody something that they need
to raise	to lift or move something to a higher position
to shy away from	to avoid something that you dislike, fear or do not feel confident about
to spot	to see or notice a person or thing, especially suddenly when it is not easy to do so
to trace	to find or discover somebody / something by looking carefully for them / it
while	during the time that, or at the same time as

Unit 7

blind	not able to see
captivity	the state of being kept as a prisoner
carnivore	any animal that eats meat
claw	one of the sharp curved nails on the end of an animal's or a bird's foot
cub	a young bear, lion, fox, etc.
den	the hidden home of some types of wild animal
fur	the soft thick mass of hair that grows on the body of some animals
height	measurement of how tall a person or thing is
hollow	having a hole or empty space inside
lifespan	the length of time that something is likely to live, continue or function
litter	a number of baby animals that one mother gives birth to at the same time
prey	an animal, a bird, etc. that is hunted, killed and eaten by another
retractable	that can be moved or pulled back
scent	the pleasant smell that something has
shed	a small simple building, usually built of wood or metal, used for keeping things in
slit	a long, narrow cut or opening
to breed	to have sex and produce young
to breed	to keep animals or plants in order to produce young ones for a particular purpose
to hide	to go somewhere where you hope you will not be seen or found
to raid	to enter a place, usually using force, and steal from it
to stalk	to move slowly and quietly towards an animal or a person, in order to kill, catch or harm it or them

to weigh	to have a heaviness of a stated amount, or to measure the heaviness of an object
worm	a long, thin creature with a soft body and no bones or legs

Unit 8

burrow	a hole or tunnel in the ground made by animals such as rabbits for them to live in
bush	a plant that grows thickly with several hard stems coming up from the root
feature	a typical quality or an important part of something
hare	an animal like a large rabbit that can run very fast and has long ears
herbivore	any animal that eats only plants
pet	an animal that is kept in the home as a companion
plenty (of)	a large amount (of)
vegetation	plants in general, especially the plants that are found in a particular area or environment

Unit 9

antler	horn that grows on the head of male deer
biome	a region of the earth's surface and the particular combination of climate, plants, and animals that are found in it:
doe	a female deer
evergreen	(of a tree or bush) which has green leaves all through the year
fawn	light yellow-brown in colour
fluffy	covered in very soft fur or feathers
hemisphere	one half of the earth, especially the half above or below the equator
hoof	the hard part of the foot of some animals such as horses
moss	a very small green or yellow plant without flowers that spreads over wet surfaces, rocks, trees, etc.
picky	liking only particular things and difficult to please
predator	an animal that kills and eats other animals
ruminant	any animal that brings back food from its stomach to its mouth and chews it again such as cows and sheep
scared	frightened of something or afraid that something bad might happen
shade	an area that is dark and cool under or behind something because the sun's light does not get to it
stomach	the organ in the body where food is digested,
stream	water that flows naturally along a fixed route formed by a channel cut into rock or ground, usually at ground level
thick	not thin
threat	a statement in which somebody is told that you will be punished or harmed
tundra	the area of land in North Asia, North America, and northern Europe where, because it is cold, trees do not grow and ground below the surface is permanently frozen
twig	a small, thin branch of a tree or bush, especially one removed from the tree or bush and without any leaves

Unit 10

(fur) coat	the hair, wool, or fur covering an animal:
bushy	(of hair or fur) thick or full
carcass	the body of a dead animal, especially a large one that is soon to be cut up as meat or eaten by wild animals
globe	an object like a ball in shape with a map of the world on its surface, usually on a stand so that it can be turned
omnivore	an animal or a person that eats all types of food, especially both plants and meat
requirement	something that is needed or wanted
rodent	any small animal that belongs to a group of animals with strong sharp front teeth such as mice, rats and squirrels
to scavenge	(of animals or birds) to eat dead animals that have been killed by another animal, by a car, etc.
shy	(of people) nervous or embarrassed about meeting and speaking to other people
to chew	to bite food into small pieces in your mouth with your teeth to make it easier to swallow
to dwell	to live somewhere
to gnaw	to keep biting something
to hibernate	(of animals) to spend the winter in a state like deep sleep
to interact	to communicate with somebody, especially while you work, play or spend time with them
to range	to vary between two particular amounts, sizes, etc., including others between them
to suckle	(of a woman or female animal) to feed a baby or young animal with milk from the breast or udder
urban	connected with a town or city

Unit 11

array	group or collection of things or people, often a group that is large or impressive
decade	a period of ten years
[...]-long	covering a period of [...]
endangered	at risk of no longer existing
glimmer	a slight sign of something good or positive
hope	feeling of wanting and expecting a particular thing to happen; something that you wish for
idyllic	extremely pleasant, beautiful or peaceful, perfect, without problems
industrial scale	a very large size or extent of something
intensive agriculture	farming that uses a lot of machinery, labour, chemicals, etc. in order to grow as many crops or keep as many animals as possible on the amount of land available
mud	earth that has been mixed with water
nature reserve	an area of land that is protected in order to keep safe the animals that live there
onslaught	a very powerful attack

saviour	a person who rescues somebody / something from a dangerous or difficult situation
sloppy	which shows a lack of care, thought or effort
swampy	(of land) very wet or covered with water and in which plants, trees, etc. are growing
to dig	to break up and move soil using a tool, a machine, or one's hands
to forage	to go from place to place searching for things that you can eat or use
to hatch	(of a young bird, fish, insect, etc.) to come out of an egg (of an egg) to break open so that a young bird, fish, insect, etc. can come out
to wallow	(of large animals or people) to lie and roll about in water or mud, to keep cool or for pleasure
trot	the movement of a horse or similar animal when it runs at its slowest speed
wetland	an area of land that is naturally wet

Unit 12

arrow	a sign consisting of a straight line with an upside down V shape at one end of it that points in a particular direction, used to show where something is
arrow-shaped	having the shape of an arrow
caterpillar	a small, long animal with many legs that feeds on the leaves of plants, and develops into a butterfly or moth
fertilized	which has been covered with a natural or chemical substance on land in order to make the plants grow well
infested	which has a problem because of the presence in large numbers of insects or animals such as rats in a particular place
invasive	moving into all areas of something and difficult to stop
load	the amount of weight carried, especially by a vehicle, a structure such as a bridge, or an animal
moth	an insect with wings that is similar to a butterfly, usually flies at night, and is attracted to light
oak	a large tree that is common in northern countries
obvious	easy to see, recognize, or understand
silken	soft, smooth, and shiny like silk
territorial	connected with the land or sea that is owned by a particular country
to emerge	to appear by coming out of something or out from behind something
to lay	to put something in especially a flat or horizontal position, usually carefully or for a particular purpose
to pop off	to die
to pupate	to develop into a pupa, which is a stage in the development of certain insects (between larva and adult insect)
to retreat	to go away from a place or person in order to escape from fighting or danger
to strip	to remove, pull, or tear the covering or outer layer from something

wiggler	animal or being that twists and turns its body or part of it with quick short movements
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Unit 13

due to	because of
alien	a person who is not a citizen of the country in which they live or work
concern	a feeling of worry, especially one that is shared by many people
freshwater	living in water that is not the sea and does not contain salt
harmless	unable or unlikely to cause damage or harm
jellyfish	a sea creature with a soft, oval, almost transparent body
lake	a large area of water that is surrounded by land
peak	the pointed top of a mountain
proliferation	the fact of something increasing a lot and suddenly in number or amount
release	the act of setting a person or an animal free
reminiscent	which reminds people of someone or something
to dive	to jump into water with your head and arms going in first

Unit 14

accustomed (to)	used (to)
balance	a situation in which different things exist in equal, correct or good amounts
bank	the ground at the side of a river
belly	the part of the body below the chest
burn	a place where fire or heat has hurt or damaged something
climes	a place with a particular kind of climate
log	thick piece of wood that is cut from or has fallen from a tree
owner	a person who possesses something
to crawl	to move forward on hands and knees or with the body close to the ground
to thrive	to grow, develop, or be successful
turtle	a large reptile with a hard round shell that lives in the sea

Unit 15

biodiversity	the existence of a large number of different kinds of animals and plants which make a balanced environment
fauna	all the animals that live wild in a particular area
flora	all the plants of a particular place or from a particular time in history
invertebrate	an animal with no spine
to capture	to take someone as a prisoner
to euthanize	to kill a sick or injured animal or person by giving them drugs so that they die without pain
to exceed	to be greater than a particular number or amount
to put to sleep	to kill a sick or injured animal by giving it drugs so that it dies without pain

trap	a piece of equipment for catching animals
tricky	difficult to do or deal with
vet	a person who has been trained in the science of animal medicine, whose job is to treat animals who are sick or injured

Unit 16

alike	in a similar way
although	despite the fact that
brochure	a type of small magazine that contains pictures and information on a product or a company
several	some; an amount that is not exact but is fewer than many
sustainable	causing, or made in a way that causes, little or no damage to the environment and therefore able to continue for a long time
to arise	to come into existence or begin to be noticed; happen
to feed	to give food to a person, group, or animal
to unveil	to show something new or to make it known for the first time

Unit 17

bark	the outer layer of a tree
damage	physical harm caused to something which makes it less attractive, useful or valuable
discrepancy	a difference between two or more things that should be the same
figure	a number representing a particular amount, especially one given in official information
mouflon	a type of wild sheep
perpetrator	a person who commits a crime or does something that is wrong or evil
surrounding	which is near or around something
to add	to put something together with something else so as to increase the size, number, amount, etc.
to cause	to make something happen, especially something bad
to cull	to kill a number of wild animals from a group, especially in order to stop the group from becoming too large
to flock [to]	to move or come together in large numbers
to focus [on]	to give attention, effort, etc. to one particular subject, situation or person rather than another
to lead	to go with or in front of a person or an animal to show the way or to make them go in the right direction
to provoke	to cause a reaction, especially a negative one
to stipulate	to state clearly and definitely that something must be done, or how it must be done
uproar	a situation in which people shout and make a lot of noise because they are angry or upset about something
valley	an area of low land between hills or mountains, often with a river flowing through it
vicinity	the area around a particular place

Unit 18

hornet	a large wasp (= a black and yellow flying insect) that has a very powerful sting
statement	something that you say or write that gives information or an opinion
to issue	to make something known formally
to request	to ask for something or ask somebody to do something in a polite or formal way
to sting	(of an insect or plant) to touch someone's skin or make a very small hole in it so that you feel a sharp pain