



Worksheet

Name :

Subject:

Reading Comprehension

Class:

11th grade

Date:

Reading Comprehension

A. Read the text carefully, then answer the following multiple-choice questions.

A It's no accident that the symbol of the World Wide Fund for Nature is a giant panda. These animals are cute or beautiful, or both, and of course we all want to save them. This popularity enables organisations such as the WWF to raise money to support a range of critically endangered species. However, less well-known or 'exciting' creatures are far more likely to become extinct because they don't get enough attention from researchers. Invertebrates (animals without a backbone) make up over 90% of all the creatures on Earth, but get only a tiny percentage of the money available to protect our wildlife.

B And what about those creatures that many people would find positively ugly? With its tiny eyes, big mouth and slimy pink body, the blobfish is far from attractive. This marine creature lives deep in the ocean, where the pressure is very high. As a result, it has tiny fins and no skeleton, which keeps it from being crushed by the water pressure. Unfortunately, when fishing boats sweep the ocean floor, looking for other fish and crustaceans, these fish can get swept into the nets accidentally.

C The threat faced by the pangolin, however, is far from accidental. They are more often targeted by poachers than any other animal in the world. Unique among mammals, it is covered in scales, like a reptile. They may not look very cuddly or cute, but these scales are highly prized in traditional Chinese medicine, which has caused the population of pangolins in China to fall by around 90% since the 1960s. Their scales protect them from their natural predators, but it's simple for a poacher to just pick them up.

D Other creatures become endangered precisely because people find them ugly. Take the aye aye for example. Found only on the island of Madagascar, the aye aye is the world's largest nocturnal primate. During the day they sleep in nests in the trees, coming out to hunt at night. They are solitary creatures, furry, and harmless but unfortunately, they are often killed.

1. What is the main purpose of the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)?

2. Name two animals mentioned in the text that are in danger of extinction.

3. Why are some animals more likely to receive help from organizations than others?

4. Explain why the blobfish looks unusual compared to most fish.

5. How does human activity cause harm to the blobfish or the pangolin? Give one example.

6. If you were a researcher, what would you do to help protect less popular animals?

7. Compare the reasons why the pangolin and the aye aye are endangered. How are they different?

8. Do you think people should focus only on saving beautiful animals? Why or why not?

9. What does the author want readers to understand about our attitude toward “ugly” animals?

10. Imagine you are writing a short campaign message to protect one of the animals from the text. Write two or three sentences encouraging people to care about it.

Answer Key – Comprehension Questions (Grade 10)

1. **What is the main purpose of the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)?**
→ The WWF aims to protect endangered species and support the conservation of wildlife around the world.

2. **Name two animals mentioned in the text that are in danger of extinction.**
→ The pangolin and the blobfish are two examples of animals that are endangered.

3. **Why are some animals more likely to receive help from organizations than others?**
→ Because animals that are beautiful or popular, like pandas, attract more public attention and donations.

4. **Explain why the blobfish looks unusual compared to most fish.**
→ The blobfish has a soft, slimy body, tiny fins, and no skeleton, which helps it survive under the high pressure of deep ocean water.

5. **How does human activity cause harm to the blobfish or the pangolin? Give one example.**
→ The blobfish is accidentally caught in fishing nets, while pangolins are hunted illegally for their valuable scales used in traditional medicine.

6. **If you were a researcher, what would you do to help protect less popular animals?**
→ I would raise public awareness through education, campaigns, and documentaries to show their importance in nature.

7. **Compare the reasons why the pangolin and the aye aye are endangered. How are they different?**
→ Pangolins are hunted by poachers for their scales, while aye ayes are killed by people because they are considered ugly or unlucky.

8. **Do you think people should focus only on saving beautiful animals? Why or why not?**
→ No, all animals are important for the balance of nature, and even “ugly” or unknown animals play vital roles in their ecosystems.

9. **What does the author want readers to understand about our attitude toward “ugly” animals?**
→ The author wants readers to realize that humans often ignore or harm animals that are not attractive, even though they also deserve protection.

10. **Imagine you are writing a short campaign message to protect one of the animals from the text. Write two or three sentences encouraging people to care about it.**
→ Example: *“The pangolin needs our help. It may not be cute, but it is unique and plays an important role in nature. Let’s protect it before it disappears forever.”*