

*词汇: animal conservation 动物保护*

For many of us, our closest **encounter** with wild animals is at a zoo. These places allow us to observe the behaviours and characteristics of amazing **creatures** from **big cats** to tiny **amphibians**. It's an enjoyable and educational experience for us, but is it the best **environment** for the animals?

A long time ago, people could only see wild animals as **stuffed** dead exhibits in a museum. Later, live animals were captured by explorers, brought home and put on show to the public in **menageries** – **animal welfare** was not a priority. But modern zoos and **wildlife parks** have transformed the conditions and environments for animals, making bigger **enclosures**, removing bars, and, to some extent, mimicking their **natural habitats**.

Some people have questioned the cruelty of keeping animals **captive** and using them just for entertainment, but zoos are keen to show they are here to help wildlife by educating us about **conservation**. In the UK, the introduction of The Zoo Licensing Act 1981 also required zoos to educate the public. Well-managed zoos are now also involved in supporting and **funding** conservation programmes.

Probably the biggest claim from zoos today is that they help to protect **species** that are under threat **in the wild** due to climate change. Robert Young, Chair in Wildlife Conservation at Salford University says: "There are quite a lot of different species around the planet which we wouldn't have today if it wasn't for zoos." Some zoos have captive **breeding** programmes which help to preserve the future of species that would otherwise face **extinction**. Actor Leonardo DiCaprio recently praised Chester Zoo in the UK for its conservation work. It brought a "rare fish species back from the dead" after breeding and releasing a school of **golden skiffia** fish back into their **native** river.

While the debate about having zoos continues, new opportunities to meet wildlife are being explored, such as using virtual reality, and Jon Coe, a zoo designer, told the BBC: "Taking a walk through a **herd** of elephants in the Serengeti, I think, is going to be possible pretty soon."

## 词汇表

<b>encounter</b>	不期而遇，偶然相遇
<b>creature</b>	动物，生物
<b>big cat</b>	大型猫科动物
<b>amphibian</b>	两栖动物
<b>environment</b>	环境
<b>stuffed</b>	(动物) 制成标本的
<b>menagerie</b>	(供私人收藏或公众观赏的) 野生动物园
<b>animal welfare</b>	动物保护
<b>wildlife park</b>	野生动物园
<b>enclosure</b>	围场
<b>natural habitat</b>	自然栖息地
<b>captive</b>	圈养的
<b>conservation</b>	(动物) 保护
<b>fund</b>	资助
<b>species</b>	物种
<b>in the wild</b>	在野生环境中
<b>breeding</b>	(动物) 繁殖，饲养
<b>extinction</b>	灭绝
<b>golden skiffia</b>	弗氏斯基法鲱
<b>native</b>	原地的，土生的
<b>herd</b>	兽群

## 测验与练习

### 1. 阅读课文并回答问题。

1. Before zoos, how did most people get to see a wild animal?
2. What have many zoos done to improve the environment for their animals?
3. How are zoos trying to help animals in the wild?
4. According to Robert Young, what might we not have if it wasn't for zoos?
5. True or false? *Actor Leonardo DiCaprio recently released some rare golden skiffia fish back into their native river.*

### 2. 选择意思恰当的单词或词组来完成下列句子。

1. While on a country walk, I \_\_\_\_\_ a bull in a field, so I had to run!

stuffed	herd	encountered	native
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2. It was great to see so many animals \_\_\_\_\_ when we went on a safari.

on the wild	in the wild	at the wild	in a wild
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3. The black rhino is one of several animals that are facing \_\_\_\_\_.

extinction	conservation	funding	menageries
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4. Elephants are \_\_\_\_\_ to Africa and Asia.

captive	stuffed	native	conservation
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5. The smell was coming from a \_\_\_\_\_ of cows on the nearby farm.

heard	herds	hurd	herd
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## 答案

### 1. 阅读课文并回答问题。

1. Before zoos, how did most people get to see a wild animal?

**A long time ago, people could only see wild animals as stuffed dead exhibits in a museum. Later on, live animals could be seen in menageries.**

2. What have many zoos done to improve the environment for their animals?

**Many modern zoos have made enclosures bigger, removed bars, and to some extent, tried to mimic the animal's natural habitats.**

3. How are zoos trying to help animals in the wild?

**Some zoos have captive breeding programmes which help to preserve the future of species that would otherwise face extinction.**

4. According to Robert Young, what might we not have if it wasn't for zoos?

**Robert Young says "there are quite a lot of different species around the planet, which we wouldn't have today if it wasn't for zoos."**

5. True or false? *Actor Leonardo DiCaprio recently released some rare golden skiffia fish back into their native river.*

**False. He recently praised Chester Zoo for its work for breeding and releasing a school of rare golden skiffia fish back into the river.**

### 2. 选择意思恰当的单词或词组来完成下列句子。

1. While on a country walk, I **encountered** a bull in a field, so I had to run!

2. It was great to see so many animals **in the wild** when we went on a safari.

3. The black rhino is one of several animals that are facing **extinction**.

4. Elephants are **native** to Africa and Asia.

5. The smell was coming from a **herd** of cows on the nearby farm.