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The 4 page 60 minute ESL British English lesson – 30/12/13

Burma – Nature’s Lost Kingdom

Today, let’s talk about Burma/Myanmar. We will focus on its almost impenetrable jungles; many of which have remained undisturbed for decades.

It is in these jungles where many of the rarest species on earth still survive. For how much longer begs the question because the country is rapidly opening up after 50 years of being closed to outsiders.

The military regime has softened its stance; allowing the country to become more democratic. Whilst this is positive news for its people this could spell the end of many animal species’ life.

In the jungles of Burma are many rare animals like wild Asian elephants and Burmese tigers. Both of which are endangered species. Other animals under threat include the Asian golden cat, the sun bear and the clouded leopard.

Man has already started to hunt down the rare species as trophies to put on a wall. Worse he is eating these extremely rare animals. Many of the animals are openly for sale dead or alive in cages at border towns either side of the border.

Rapid deforestation is taking place. It is a race against time to try to preserve the rainforests of Burma. Forest fire clears jungle easily. It also clears animals from their natural habitat.

Once the forest is cleared the animals do not return. The jungle is now being replaced with palm oil and rubber plantations; the lucrative timber extracted and sold abroad.

For the conservationists saving what’s left of the jungle is paramount. If the Burmese government listens to them it could create one of the world’s largest sanctuary’s for these animals in the form of huge National Parks.

SPEAKING – WARM UP

Think of three endangered animal species. Go round the room swapping details with others.

LISTENING – WRITING - DICTATION

The teacher will read some lines of the article slowly to the class.

READING

Students should now read the article aloud, swapping readers every paragraph.

SPEAKING - UNDERSTANDING

1) The article – Students check any unknown vocabulary or phrases with the teacher.

2) The article - Students should look through the article with the teacher.

- 1) What is the article about?
- 2) What do you think about the article?
- 3) Was this an easy or difficult article to understand?
- 4) Was this a boring or interesting article?
- 5) Discuss the article.

3) Article quiz - Students quiz each other in pairs. Score a point for each correct answer. Score half a point each time you have to look at the article for help. See who can get the highest score!

Student A questions

- 1) What has softened its stance?
- 2) What begs the question?
- 3) What is deforestation?
- 4) What clears jungle easily?
- 5) What is a rainforest?

Student B questions

- 1) What is a National Park?
- 2) Who could listen to whom?
- 3) What has remained undisturbed for decades?
- 4) What is a decade?
- 5) What might you find at border towns?

**Category: Nature / Burma / Lost Kingdom
Intermediate / Upper Intermediate**

WRITING / SPEAKING

In pairs. On the board write as many words as you can to do with '**Jungles**'. *One-two minutes.* Compare with other teams. Using your words compile a short dialogue together.

WRITING / SPEAKING

In pairs – Choose three of the endangered species from the article. Add three more of your own. Write them below. Talk about them.

- 1) _____ (1) _____
- 2) _____ (2) _____
- 3) _____ (3) _____

Add three ways one could preserve the endangered species in Burma/Myanmar. Add three important points you would say to the Burmese/Myanmar government to help save these animals. Discuss together.

- 1) _____ (1) _____
- 2) _____ (2) _____
- 3) _____ (3) _____

The teacher will choose some pairs to discuss their findings in front of the class.

WRITING / SPEAKING

In pairs, write a short paragraph about '**A walk in the jungle**'. Describe what you might see! *5-10 mins.*

The teacher will choose some students to read out their work to the class.

DISCUSSION

Student A questions

- 1) Did the headline make you want to read the article?
- 2) What do you think of deforestation?
- 3) Should Burma/Myanmar create National Parks to help save its animals?
- 4) What is your favourite wild animal?
- 5) Have you ever been into a jungle?
- 6) Do you like to watch documentaries about wild animals?
- 7) Would you like to visit Burma/Myanmar?
- 8) Would you like to visit the jungles of Burma/Myanmar?
- 9) Are many animal species under threat? Explain.
- 10) Have you learnt anything in today's English lesson?

SPEAKING – ROLEPLAY 1

In groups. One of you is the interviewer. There are up to four guests. You are in the BBC Rangoon TV studio. Today's interview is: Burma – Nature's Lost Kingdom. *10 mins.*

- 1) A Burmese/Myanmar government spokesperson.
- 2) A photographer
- 3) A journalist.
- 4) A local Burmese person / a tourist.

The teacher will choose some groups to roleplay their interview in front of the class.

SPEAKING - ROLEPLAY 2

In pairs. One of you is in your country. The other is in the jungle camp in Burma. (Imagine!) Start a telephone conversation about what the person in the jungle camp has seen in the jungles of Burma around where they are! *5 mins.*

SPEAKING – DISCUSSION

Allow 10 minutes – As a class.

*Saving endangered animal species
or Deforestation
(Google them!)
Add in some examples!*

The teacher can moderate the session.

DISCUSSION

Student B questions

- 1) What do you think about what you've read?
- 2) Why is deforestation happening?
- 3) What happens to the animals when deforestation happens?
- 4) What is replacing the forests after they are cut down?
- 5) Would you buy a wild animal as a pet?
- 6) Do you think it is right wild animals are sold as pets at the border towns on the Myanmar border?
- 7) What National Parks have you visited?
- 8) What advice would you give the Burmese/Myanmar government about saving their wild animals?
- 9) Has this been a difficult lesson for you to understand?
- 10) Did you like this discussion?

GAP FILL: READING

Burma – Nature’s Lost Kingdom

Today, let’s talk about Burma/Myanmar. We will focus on its almost (1)___ jungles; many of which have remained undisturbed for decades.

It is in these (2)___ where many of the rarest (3)___ on earth still survive. For how much longer begs the question because the country is (4)___ opening up after 50 years of being closed to outsiders.

The military regime has softened its (5)___; allowing the country to become more (6)___. Whilst this is positive news for its people this could (7)___ the end of many animal species’ life.

In the jungles of Burma are many rare animals like wild Asian elephants and Burmese tigers. Both of which are endangered species. Other animals under threat include the Asian golden cat, the sun bear and the clouded (8)___.

leopard / impenetrable / stance / democratic / rapidly / spell / jungles / species

Man has already started to hunt down the rare species as (1)___ to put on a wall. Worse he is eating these (2)___ (3)___ animals. Many of the animals are openly for sale dead or alive in cages at border towns either side of the border.

Rapid (4)___ is taking place. It is a race against time to try to preserve the rainforests of Burma. Forest fire clears jungle easily. It also clears animals from their natural habitat.

Once the forest is cleared the animals do not return. The jungle is now being replaced with palm oil and rubber (5)___; the (6)___ timber extracted and sold abroad.

For the conservationists saving what’s left of the jungle is (7)___. If the Burmese government listens to them it could create one of the world’s largest (8)___’s for these animals in the form of huge National Parks.

paramount / rare / plantations / extremely / lucrative / trophies / sanctuary / deforestation

GAP FILL: GRAMMAR

Burma – Nature’s Lost Kingdom

Today, let’s talk about Burma/Myanmar. We will focus on its almost impenetrable jungles; many of which have remained undisturbed for decades.

It is in (1)___ jungles (2)___ many of the rarest species on earth (3)___ survive. For how (4)___ longer begs the question because the country is rapidly opening up after 50 years of being closed to outsiders.

The military regime has softened its stance; allowing the country to become (5)___ democratic. Whilst this is positive news for its people this could spell the end of many animal species’ life.

In the jungles of Burma are (6)___ rare animals like wild Asian elephants and Burmese tigers. Both of (7)___ are endangered species. (8)___ animals under threat include the Asian golden cat, the sun bear and the clouded leopard.

many / other / where / much / which / still / these / more

Man has already started to hunt down the rare species (1)___ trophies to put (2)___ a wall. Worse (3)___ is eating these extremely rare animals. Many of the animals are openly for sale dead (4)___ alive in cages at border towns either side of the border.

Rapid deforestation is taking place. It is a race against time to try to preserve the rainforests of Burma. Forest fire clears jungle easily. (5)___ also clears animals from their natural habitat.

Once the forest is cleared the animals do not return. The jungle is now being replaced with palm oil and rubber plantations; the lucrative timber extracted and sold abroad.

For the conservationists saving what’s left of the jungle is paramount. (6)___ the Burmese government listens to them it could create one (7)___ the world’s largest sanctuary’s for these animals (8)___ the form of huge National Parks.

of / it / if / or / he / on / in / as

GAP FILL: LISTENING

Burma – Nature’s Lost Kingdom

Today, let’s talk about Burma/Myanmar. We will focus on its almost _____; many of which have remained undisturbed for decades.

_____ where many of the rarest species on earth still survive. For how much longer begs the question because the country is rapidly opening up after 50 years of being closed to outsiders.

The military regime has softened its stance; allowing the country to become _____. Whilst this is positive news for its people this could spell the end of many animal species’ life.

_____ are many rare animals like wild Asian elephants and Burmese tigers. Both of which are endangered species. Other animals under threat include the Asian golden cat, the sun bear and _____.

Man has already started to hunt down the rare species as trophies to put on a wall. Worse he is eating these _____. Many of the animals are openly for sale dead or alive in cages at border towns either side of the border.

_____ is taking place. It is a race against time to try to preserve the rainforests of Burma. Forest fire clears jungle easily. It also clears animals from their natural habitat.

_____ cleared the animals do not return. The jungle is now being replaced with palm oil and rubber plantations; the lucrative timber extracted and sold abroad.

For _____ saving what’s left of the jungle is paramount. If the Burmese government listens to them it could create one of the world’s largest sanctuary’s for these animals in the form of _____.

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WRITING/SPELLING

WRITING / SPEAKING

1) On the board - *In pairs, as a class* - write down 20 things you know about Burma/Myanmar. Talk about them! 5 mins.

2) Sentence starters - Finish these sentence starters. Correct your mistakes. Compare what other people have written.

- 1) Burma _____
- 2) The jungle _____
- 3) Asian elephants _____

3) Homework - Write and send a 200 word email to your teacher about: **Burma – Nature’s Lost Kingdom**. Your email can be read out in class.

GAP FILL READING

- 1) impenetrable
- 2) jungles
- 3) species
- 4) rapidly
- 5) stance
- 6) democratic
- 7) spell
- 8) leopard

SPELLING

The teacher will ask the class individually to spell the following words that are in the article. Afterwards check your answers.

- 1) Myanmar
- 2) Burma
- 3) impenetrable
- 4) undisturbed
- 5) jungles
- 6) rapidly
- 7) military
- 8) stance
- 9) democratic
- 10) elephants

ANSWERS

- 1) trophies
- 2) extremely
- 3) rare
- 4) deforestation
- 5) plantations
- 6) lucrative
- 7) paramount
- 8) sanctuary

SPELLING

Use the following ratings:

Pass = 12

Good = 15

Very good = 18

Excellent = 20

- 11) rare
- 12) species
- 13) either
- 14) deforestation
- 15) extremely
- 16) habitat
- 17) lucrative
- 18) paramount
- 19) conservationist
s
- 20) sanctuary

Burma – Nature’s Lost Kingdom - *30th December 2013*