

91279R



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## Level 2 Social Studies, 2017

### 91279 Demonstrate understanding of conflict(s) arising from different cultural beliefs and ideas

2.00 p.m. Thursday 30 November 2017

Credits: Four

#### RESOURCE BOOKLET

Refer to this booklet to answer the questions for Social Studies 91279.

Check that this booklet has pages 2–12 in the correct order and that none of these pages is blank.

**YOU MAY KEEP THIS BOOKLET AT THE END OF THE EXAMINATION.**

## **CAGING ANIMALS IN ZOOS AND AQUARIUMS**

### **INTRODUCTION**

Humans have always caught and caged animals, either for entertainment, or as an assertion of power. The Sumerians in ancient Mesopotamia did it more than 4000 years ago. Later, Alexander the Great was said to take special care of his collection of bears and monkeys. The Aztecs in the Americas, the early Chinese – both groups caged animals. The first modern zoo opened to the public in Vienna, Austria, in 1779, and the first public aquarium opened in London in 1853. These establishments have changed drastically since, slowly changing to provide larger and more natural environments for animals, as people's empathy toward them grows.

This is an international trend that has implications for similar establishments in New Zealand, as people are questioning how we keep animals in zoos and aquariums.



**Artists drawing the animals at the Jardin des Plantes in Paris, 1902**

## THE NATURE AND CAUSE OF THE CONFLICT

Six million animals are estimated to live in captivity for human entertainment.

Conflict has arisen over whether animals should be caged or not.

### RESOURCE A: GROUPS IN FAVOUR OF CAGING ANIMALS

The argument for caged animals is that they serve to educate the public, they give people who can't afford to travel a chance to see the animals, and they serve as important conservation and research centres.

CONSERVATION	EDUCATION	RESEARCH
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A species protected in captivity provides a reservoir population against a population crash or extinction in the wild.</li> <li>• A good number of species exist only in captivity, and still more exist in the wild only because they have been reintroduced from zoos and aquariums. For example, Auckland Zoo supports the Department of Conservation's kakapo recovery programme by developing incubation and rearing techniques.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seeing a living creature in the flesh, hearing it, smelling it, watching what it does, and having the time to absorb details brings a greater understanding to many people, and hopefully a greater appreciation for wildlife, conservation efforts, and how they can contribute.</li> <li>• These institutions work directly to educate conservation workers in foreign countries, or to send keepers abroad to share their knowledge and skills with zoos, and improve conditions and species reintroductions all over the world.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Being able to study animals in zoos where there is less risk and fewer variables means real changes can be effected on wild populations with far fewer problems.</li> <li>• Research makes a real difference to conservation efforts, and helps to reduce human-animal conflicts.</li> <li>• Research provides a knowledge base to help fight the increasing threat of habitat destruction and other problems.</li> </ul>

With the ongoing global threats to the environment, zoos and aquariums are essential to the long-term survival of numerous species. Not just in terms of protecting them and breeding them for reintroduction, but to learn about them to aid those still in the wild, as well as to educate the public about these animals and their world: to spark people's interest so that they can assist or at least accept the need to be more environmentally conscious.

Frank Coles, a zookeeper, said: "No keeper likes having animals in captivity. But when you think about it, there aren't a lot of places for them to go back to."

## RESOURCE B: GROUPS OPPOSED TO CAGING ANIMALS



Caged animals in zoos and aquariums around the world

Many groups oppose caging animals because zoos and aquariums do not allow animals to live in a natural environment, and this can cause harm to the animals. The following are statements provided from the websites of two well-known groups who oppose caged animals.

### **People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PeTA)**

Captive animals are deprived of everything that is natural and important to them, and as a result they become bored and lonely, and many even suffer from a condition called “zoochosis.” If you’ve ever witnessed a captive animal rock and sway back and forth, you’ve seen the disease first-hand. This condition is so common in zoos that some zoos give animals a mood-altering drug, such as Prozac.

Animals are unable to thrive in small enclosures, especially with unnatural weather and climates. For example, elephants typically walk up to 30 miles in just one day, but Lucy, the lone elephant at the Edmonton Zoo (in Alberta, Canada), is locked inside a barn when the zoo is closed and during Edmonton’s frigid winter months, which means she spends most of her time indoors, without much room to move. The near-constant confinement because of the harsh weather has caused Lucy to develop painful arthritis.

Instead of going to the zoo, you can learn about animals by watching nature documentaries or observing the animals in their own natural habitats instead.

### **The Captive Animals’ Protection Society (CAPS)**

We believe that wild animals belong in their natural habitat and should not be caged for our entertainment.

We believe that wild animals in zoos suffer physically and mentally as their social, behavioural, and physical needs cannot be met in unnatural environments. Many animals in zoos show signs of distress, such as pacing or rocking backwards and forwards repeatedly. Experts say that this abnormal behaviour is caused by the stresses of being held captive.

We believe that zoos can be damaging to conservation efforts. Effective conservation is carried out by working in the animals’ natural habitat to protect individuals and entire ecosystems. Zoos do not save species from extinction. Instead, they divert much-needed attention away from important conservation work in the wild. Zoos spend millions on keeping animals confined, while natural habitats are destroyed and animals killed, as there is insufficient funding for protection. When London Zoo spent £5.3 million on a new gorilla enclosure, the chief consultant to the UN Great Ape Survival Project said he was uncomfortable that zoos spent so much money when there was not enough resources available for conserving threatened species in the wild. “Five million pounds for three gorillas when national parks are seeing that number killed every day for want of some Land Rovers and trained men and anti-poaching patrols.”

Presenting animals to zoo visitors as living exhibits teaches children that animals can be manipulated in order to fulfil our own curiosity about them. It suggests that animals have no right to be treated as individuals who think and feel for themselves. It fails to recognise that animals have their own needs to be met, for their own purposes.

*"Most people have not yet thought about the inherent problems with zoos. It is likely that many are not aware of the facts. Those of us who are clued up can spread the word, and help to show others that exploitation occurs whenever other animals are treated as commodities, rather than individuals."*

Elena Orde, a vegan animal rights activist.

*"Few people realise the monotony of zoos. When the public visits a zoo, they see the animals pace or sway behind their walls for three, maybe four, hours. But for these animals every day is the same, and during visiting time, they stare at the stream of faces in the crowds. Everyone is the same. Everyone just stares back. Meal time is always the same food, every night. They sit captive, thousands of miles from the climate for which evolution has adapted them. It's the monotony which crushes their spirit, the endless hours which numb their brains."*

Selwyn Manning, a journalist who has investigated zoos in New Zealand.

## **POINTS OF VIEW, VALUES AND PERSPECTIVES OF THE INDIVIDUALS/GROUPS IN THE CONFLICT**

### **RESOURCE C: DR KEVIN PARKER, A CONSERVATION SCIENTIST**

#### **Is Auckland Zoo out of touch with modern conservation?**

*By Dr Kevin Parker, whose work revolves around reintroducing birds to establish wild populations.*

The tīeke, or North Island saddleback, is one of New Zealand's greatest conservation success stories. They were reduced to just one island population of 500 birds in the 1960s. But an ambitious translocation programme, initiated by the New Zealand Wildlife Service, continued by the New Zealand Department of Conservation, and more recently by community-based conservation groups, has increased the global population to at least 10000 birds scattered across 18 islands and five protected mainland sites. North Island saddlebacks are now secure and extinction is very unlikely. The critical aspect of this conservation success story is that it focused on creating new free-living populations in natural habitats. This is a far cry from the conservation ethic of the 1800s, which involved shooting birds such as saddlebacks, stuffing them, and then displaying them in glass cases.

Auckland Zoo decided to celebrate North Island saddlebacks during Conservation Week 2016, but in quite a contrasting manner. They recently visited Tiritiri Matangi Island (north-east of Auckland), one of the protected, free-living populations, captured 10 wild birds and transferred them to the zoo where they will spend the rest of their lives in captivity in cages far smaller and simpler than the natural habitat they were born to.

So why is Auckland Zoo capturing wild saddlebacks? It is rare for modern zoos to capture wild animals, and there is no need for a captive saddleback breeding programme. The zoo could never produce meaningful numbers of saddlebacks, there are considerable disease risks when transferring birds from zoos to the wild, and captive-bred birds often fare poorly after release.

That leaves "conservation advocacy". This argument, which Auckland Zoo will likely use, states that by seeing saddlebacks in a cage people will both appreciate, and be more likely to support, conservation of saddlebacks and conservation more generally. The problem with this argument is that it is notoriously difficult to get any proof that it actually works. And it also seems a very strange message to send during Conservation Week, especially to our children – let's celebrate New Zealand conservation by putting birds in a cage purely so people can look at them? This is not modern conservation. It might have been acceptable when the general public had little opportunity to actually see saddlebacks in the wild. But in the Auckland region alone, there are five island populations, one of which is managed in partnership with Auckland Zoo, which can be easily reached by public ferries or private boat. There is also a thriving mainland population at Tāwharanui Open Sanctuary that can be seen for free simply by driving to the park, the petrol required to get there from Auckland costing less than admission to Auckland Zoo.

So Auckland Zoo's move to capture 10 wild birds for a lifetime of captivity seems out of step with modern conservation in Aotearoa New Zealand. It is not quite the stuffed birds in a glass case of the Victorian era, but it is close, and it is nowhere near the actual saddleback conservation being undertaken by community conservation groups. The New Zealand Department of Conservation has also had a longstanding policy of not capturing wild animals simply for display, so it is odd that they granted Auckland Zoo permission to do so.

## RESOURCE D: VIRGINIA BUSCH, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ENDANGERED WOLF CENTER RESPONDS TO ANIMAL RIGHTS CONCERNS

*The Endangered Wolf Center is a non-profit wildlife facility in Eureka, Missouri, United States, that is dedicated to preserving, and reintroducing to the wild, critically endangered species of wolves.*

In recent months, I've watched the zoological community struggle with the concept of relevance, and how it relates to conservation, animal care, and their mission. With so much of the wild in a state of crisis and our planet in the midst of its sixth extinction cycle inarguably brought on by humans, the great irony and tragedy is that the very institutions capable of effecting positive change for wildlife and wild places, may themselves be on a path to extinction.

Over the last several years, animal rights extremists have devised powerful social media campaigns, in conjunction with agenda-based films positioned as documentaries, that have led many people to question how they feel about animals in zoological facilities.

In the end, without zoos and aquariums to inspire a connection to wildlife and wild places, it's the animals who will lose. And us, who will lose wild animals – those irreplaceable wonders who share our planet.

We cannot let a loud, ill-informed minority opinion manipulated by extremists, create long-lasting policy changes, such as shutting down zoos.

The Endangered Wolf Center is just one of many zoological institutions that directly interfaces with conservation in the wild. The Mexican and red wolves are active candidates for release to the wild. Would the very same animal rights groups that are so against zoos want to shut us down? Absolutely. There is no grey area for groups like these.

Zoos and facilities such as ours have a responsibility to remain relevant. With 143 million combined visitors each year, no one else can replace their ability to engage, inspire, and educate guests through up-close connections with animals. No one else has the expertise to research, breed toward species survival, study, and advocate for animals through first-hand knowledge like zoos. We must remain on their side. Our living planet and her amazing animals are counting on us all.



**Mexican wolf pups getting checked by vets at the Endangered Wolf Center. These pups will eventually be released into the wild.**





## **SOCIAL FORCES THAT HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THE CAGED ANIMALS CONFLICT, AND THEIR EFFECTS**

### **RESOURCE E: SOCIAL FORCE – CAMPAIGNING**

SAFE (Save Animals From Exploitation) is New Zealand's leading animal advocacy organisation. Founded in 1932, SAFE aims to make significant improvements to the lives of animals by raising awareness, asking people to take action, challenging cruel practices, changing attitudes, and fostering compassion for a more informed understanding of the state of human-animal relations in contemporary Aotearoa New Zealand.



Sri Lanka gifted five-year-old elephant Nandi to New Zealand in February 2016. Teaming up with other animal rights organisations here and in Sri Lanka, SAFE urged the Prime Minister to reject Sri Lanka's gift. SAFE have also made submissions to the Auckland Council, met with the Council, and presented in person to the committee in an effort to keep Nandi home in Sri Lanka. A change.org petition calling for captivity-born Nandi to stay in Sri Lanka has 5120 supporters so far. SAFE head of campaigns, Mandy Carter, said the elephant's planned move to New Zealand was "deportation packaged as a gift" and "cruel".

"Nandi will leave her home and her family to live out her life as a mascot for the rest of her disappearing kin, and bring in the revenue to keep the zoo afloat. The zoo's plans are at odds with the thinking in leading zoos around the world, which are increasingly moving away from keeping elephants on welfare grounds. The 'breeding programme' proposed for Auckland Zoo is not linked to any valid conservation programme. Elephants born and bred in zoos cannot be and never are released back into the wild. Any elephants born at Auckland Zoo will remain in captivity their entire lives," Carter said.

As well as getting a consortium of international elephant experts to speak out against the zoo's plans, from a welfare and scientific perspective, SAFE are supporting 18 groups who have petitioned the Sri Lankan Court of Appeal in an attempt to keep Nandi in Sri Lanka. As a result of the campaigning, the Sri Lankan courts have ordered Nandi to remain in Sri Lanka until the court case can be heard.

The executive director of SAFE, Hans Kriek, said the offer of the elephant was more about "politics and international relationships than animal welfare. The cost involved with relocating and maintaining an elephant is so much higher than conserving animals in the wild," he said. SAFE was "deadly opposed" to keeping elephants in captivity, and had urged Auckland Zoo to reconsider housing elephants when its elephant Kashin died in 2009. "Elephants do not do well in captivity. I can understand why the public would want to see them, by and large. But it's just a selfish thought," he said. "They have a very limited area to the point where they have to be taken for walks to give them exercise."

Auckland Zoo said it was not a party to the case before the Sri Lankan court and revealed it does not know the details of the petition currently before the court. The case was a matter for the Sri Lankan government and Auckland Zoo declined to comment. However, Auckland Zoo director Jonathan Wilcken, spoke out to correct claims Nandi's gifting was for commercial purposes. "Auckland Zoo does not make money from having elephants, but it is through our elephant programme that we can continue and further our support for elephant conservation."



## RESOURCE F: SOCIAL FORCE – ECONOMICS

Zoos are expensive to run and maintain. Auckland Zoo has an annual operating budget of \$12.5 million and a capital expenditure programme of \$2 million per year. Ticket sales, donations, and grants contribute the vast proportion of the funds to operate zoo and aquarium facilities. In 2010, Auckland Zoo received a \$2.69 million Lotto grant, and in 2013/2014 ticket sales contributed 57% of revenue. Council rates and investments supplement these budgets.

Auckland Zoo receives approximately 20%, or \$2.5 million, of its operational funding from council rates. Councils across New Zealand see investment in infrastructure like zoos and aquariums as extremely valuable. On the Auckland Council website it states that through these facilities “we strive to create rewarding visitor experiences and positive outcomes for Auckland”.

Augustine Sanders, an Auckland resident and ratepayer, said “I was astonished to find out how much the city council was paying out of our rates to support the zoo, especially when I think how bad some of the other services are, like potholes and poor bus services. Surely the zoo should be self-supporting. For heaven’s sake, if it’s that great, paying more money each time to go to the zoo shouldn’t be a problem, and if it is a problem, perhaps it is time to shut it down and return it to parkland. A far cheaper option.”

Across the United States, zoos draw over 181 million visitors annually. For cities like Philadelphia and San Diego, they’re major tourist attractions. Auckland Zoo employs 500 staff and attracts more than 700000 visitors per year. Wellington Zoo has up to 200 employees and attracts more than 270000 visitors per year.

Research firm Colmar Brunton’s 2011 Regional Resident Survey on Regional Amenities showed that Wellington Zoo is viewed as one of the top three most beneficial amenities across the region, alongside Te Papa and Westpac Stadium. Karen Fifield, Chief Executive of Wellington Zoo, said “We’re proud to show the economic and social value that the zoo brings to Wellington. Working with Wellington City Council using a social return on investment (SROI) model, it was found that for every \$1 of council funding, the zoo generates economic and social value of \$2.43. We know we’re delivering for Wellington as a whole.”

The economic benefits through either making money and / or bringing tourists to a city are a powerful reason to continue the tradition of zoos in New Zealand. If they were closed down, all of the money and infrastructure invested in zoos would be lost.

**Resource F (continued)**

**Cost comparison: keeping rhinoceroses in zoos  
vs. supporting rhinoceroses in their natural habitat**

Annual captive management cost of black rhino per animal: US\$16000.

Annual cost of protecting appropriate wild habitat to support one rhino: US\$1000.

Therefore, 16 rhinos can be supported in the wild, for the same cost of keeping a single rhino in a zoo.

It has been estimated that it can cost over 100 times more to maintain a group of elephants in captivity for a year than to conserve a similar group, and their entire ecosystem, for the same period.

**Garamba National Park, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)**

Size: 492000 ha.

Annual operating costs: US\$269500. Equivalent to the cost of keeping 16 rhinos in captivity.

The species protected in the Garamba National Park include:

- the ENTIRE giraffe population of DRC
- 31 northern white rhino
- 4000 elephants
- 30000 buffalo
- 14 other hoofed species
- 16 carnivorous species
- 1 primate species
- 93 other small or medium-sized animal species.



**Garamba National Park, Africa**

## RESOURCE G: SOCIAL FORCE – COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Community engagement can be seen as a social force in the argument for zoos and aquariums. This social force promotes several ideas.

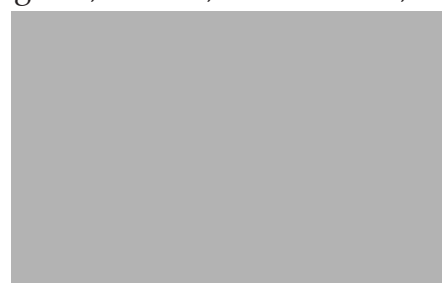
Firstly, zoos and aquariums are part of the tradition of a city and the family, and therefore should be institutions that remain regardless of the rhetoric against them. These days, kids have plenty of other things competing for their attention, but zoos and aquariums continue to attract visitors. Kelly Tarlton's Sea Life Aquarium in Auckland has had an estimated 11.5 million visitors in the last 30 years. In 2015, a record 128519 people visited Hamilton Zoo, a 6 per cent increase on the previous year. Jeremy Cole, a father of three, said in reference to Wellington Zoo: "I take my children to the zoo because the awe they show must have been the same when I was their age. It brings back memories of my childhood and the wonder of what I was seeing."

Secondly, zoos and aquariums attract such a variety of people: religious, secular, conservative, liberal, young, old, and multiple cultures. These venues allow people from all walks of life to interact, offering a sense of equality and fairness for all. A more informed public across all walks of life will support the good work that zoos are doing and discourage the bad.

Thirdly, recent studies in the field of conservation psychology indicate that a physical separation from nature, as epitomized by cities, leads to a psychological separation from nature. This means people who are less exposed to nature care less about it and are less likely, for example, to vote green. Nature in cities is critical here, in all its forms, including zoos. A three-year study involving 5 500 visitors to 12 Association of Zoos and Aquariums-accredited zoos and aquariums found that visits prompt individuals to reconsider their role in conservation action, and to see themselves as part of the solution; and that they believe they experience a stronger connection to nature as a result of their visit. One online commentator said, "Regardless of the cruelty debate, having zoos puts wild animals in our faces and are constant reminders to us of the grace and beauty of these creatures. It's a lot easier to be interested and care for something that you get to regularly see first-hand."



**Taronga Zoo, Sydney, 1950**



**Whio Forever Open Day at Auckland Zoo, supported by Genesis Energy, 2013**



**National Aquarium of New Zealand, Napier, 2015**

## Acknowledgements

### Introduction and Resource A

Text adapted from: <http://www.theatlantic.com/news/archive/2016/06/harambe-zoo/485084/>

<https://www.theguardian.com/science/lost-worlds/2014/aug/19/why-zoos-are-good>

<https://www.nzgeo.com/stories/new-zooland/>

Photo: <http://www.cbc.ca/doczone/features/history-of-zoos>

### Resource B

Text adapted from: <https://www.peta.org/living/entertainment/reality-zoos/>

Adapted from: <https://www.captiveanimals.org/our-work/zoos>

Photos: <http://expand-your-consciousness.com/9-heartbreaking-photos-exposing-zoos-as-animal-prisons/?t=THS>

### Resource C

Text adapted from: <http://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/HL1609/S00027/is-the-auckland-zoo-out-of-touch-with-modern-conservation.htm>

### Resource D

Text (adapted) and images from: <http://www.endangeredwolfcenter.org/blog/executive-directors-message-we-must-remain-on-the-side-of-zoos/#>.

### Resource E

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<http://www.newshub.co.nz/nznews/elephant-nandi-stuck-in-sri-lanka-2016080814>

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/national/84862357/Prime-Minister-John-Key-and-the-elephant-in-the-Sri-Lankan-courtroom>

### Resource F

Text adapted from: <http://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/EN/AboutCouncil/HaveYourSay/Documents/aklzoopeoplepanelreport.pdf>

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<http://www.wildlife.org.nz/zoocheck/default.htm>

Image: <http://famouswonders.com/wp-content/uploads/2009/12/Garamba-National-Park-Africa.jpg>

### Resource G

Text adapted from: [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/253004933\\_Why\\_Zoos\\_Aquariums\\_Matter\\_Assessing\\_the\\_Impact\\_of\\_a\\_Visit\\_to\\_a\\_Zoo\\_or\\_Aquarium](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/253004933_Why_Zoos_Aquariums_Matter_Assessing_the_Impact_of_a_Visit_to_a_Zoo_or_Aquarium)

Photos: Taronga Zoo. <http://www.smh.com.au/comment/obituaries/fearless-elephant-handler-had-an-affinity-with-animals-20110125-1a462.html>

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