

Reading Selection**Debate: Are Zoos Bad News?***Tiger Attack Spurs Debate*Paragraph
1

The phone call reached zoo director Manuel Mollinedo shortly after 5 p.m. as darkness was falling on San Francisco. One of his tigers was on the loose! She had escaped her enclosure and attacked a teenager and two other young men before bounding into the zoo's dense foliage and winding paths.

Paragraph
2

As Mollinedo rushed to work, police declared the entire zoo a crime scene. After some searching, they found the resting tiger, a 4-year-old, 350-pound Siberian tiger named Tatiana. They shot and killed the animal, but the damage had already been done. One of the men the tiger attacked, 17-year-old Carlos Sousa Jr., later died of his wounds.

Paragraph
3

No one knows why Tatiana, a favorite among zoo visitors, attacked. Some witnesses say the men were taunting the tiger, although the two survivors deny it. Police are still investigating.

Zoos Deserve BoosParagraph
4

Zoo critics see the attack as another example of why zoos are bad news. Critics say that zoos are like prisons and that zoos drive many animals crazy by confining them. If the animals don't die of boredom, they snap and revert to their wild nature, they say. Anti-zoo activists talk about big cats endlessly pacing back and forth in their cages, zoo elephants constantly swaying side to side, polar bears swimming in endless circles, and monkeys and parrots "grooming" themselves until they have no fur or feathers left.

Paragraph
5

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) is a leader in the anti-zoo movement. "PETA is firmly opposed to keeping wild animals in captivity," Lisa Wathne, the group's exotic animal specialist, told *Current Events*. "There are some animals, such as tigers and elephants, which roam large areas in the wild, that should never be held captive. Since 1990, there have been at least 220 incidents in 40 states involving big cats. Four children and 15 adults have lost their lives, and more than 50 other people lost limbs or suffered other injuries after being mauled," She points out that the animals are victims too: 75 big cats, including Tatiana, have been killed because of such incidents. The solution? PETA and others say get rid of zoos.

Good News On Zoos

Paragraph
6

"Getting rid of zoos would be a tragedy for all animals," says Steve Feldman, senior vice president of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums. He says zoos play a major role in educating people about animals and promoting wildlife conservation.

Paragraph
7

"If visitors never got to see an elephant or a tiger, they would not have that sense of awe and wonder and not be inspired to take action to conserve the wild," he says. "A National Science Foundation study showed that people who visit zoos actually change their behavior towards animals."

Paragraph
8

Feldman says most modern zoos work hard to keep animals from being bored or becoming neurotic. He rejects PETA's charge that animals in zoos are unhappy. "Most zoo animals are thriving," he says. "It is animals in the wild who are not happy. Most of the time, they're running for their lives."

Story Source: www.readworks.org

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SECTION 1: Selected-Response Assessment Questions

8.RI.4

1. Which simile best captures the meaning of the following sentence:

Anti-zoo activists talk about big cats endlessly pacing back and forth in their cages, zoo elephants constantly swaying side to side, polar bears swimming in endless circles, and monkeys and parrots" grooming" themselves until they have no fur or feathers left.

- a. Animals are like groomers
- b. Animals are like survivors
- c. Animals are like athletes
- d. Animals are like prisoners

8.RI.4

2. Circle two context clues from the sentence below that best convey the meaning of the word "mauled".

Four children and 15 adults have lost their lives, and more than 50 other people lost limbs or suffered other injuries after being mauled.

8.RI.4

- 3. Without changing the meaning of the sentence above, which word from the word bank would best maintain the tone? Write in the blank provided.**

murdered	scared	mangled	scratched
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Four children and 15 adults have lost their lives, and more than 50 other people lost limbs or suffered other injuries after being **mauled**.

Four children and 15 adults have lost their lives, and more than 50 other people lost limbs or suffered other injuries after being _____.

8.RI.6/8.RI.8

- 4. Which title best describes the two sides of the argument presented in the passage?**
- Tigers are Dangerous Zoo Animals
 - Educational or Cruel? An Argument about Zoos
 - Close all Zoos! Support Animal Rights
 - Save the Animals - Save the Zoos

8.RI.6/8.RI.8

On 5 – 9 label which side of the debate each additional piece of evidence would support.

A = PETA - Zoos Deserve Boos

B = Steve Feldman - Good News on Zoos

- _____ Endangered animals need a safe place.
- _____ Zoos educate the public about exotic animals.
- _____ Keeping animals in zoos causes them harm.
- _____ Caged, wild animals are more aggressive.
- _____ Modern zoos provide engaging habitats.

8.RI.8

10. Which piece of evidence would BEST strengthen Steve Feldman's position that zoos help save wild animals?

- There are 6,000 different species of animals found in American zoos.
- The association of zoos spends \$130 million in support of conservation projects each year.
- The National Zoo increased the wild black-footed ferret population from 18 to 800.
- There are 350 zoos spread across the United States of America.

8.W.2c

For questions 11 -14, use the transitions at the right to complete the sentences. Read each sentence carefully so that you can choose an appropriate transition (not all transitions will be used).

<p>11. I would like to see you tomorrow, _____ let's have lunch together.</p> <p>12. My sister loves to eat, _____ I don't care much about food.</p> <p>13. When you begin an exercise program, you must be careful not to overdo it. My father, _____, hurt his back by exercising too hard without warming up first.</p> <p>14. She had looked everywhere for a job; _____, she was called for an interview.</p>	<p>a. for example</p> <p>b. finally</p> <p>c. but</p> <p>d. still</p> <p>e. beyond</p> <p>f. on the left</p> <p>g. so</p>
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8.L.1b

Decide if the following sentences are written in active or passive voice.

A = active**B = passive**

- _____ 15. The gorillas fascinate me.
- _____ 16. The zookeeper had been mauled by the lion.
- _____ 17. Visitors must not feed the animals.
- _____ 18. Zoo regulations had better be in place every day.
- _____ 19. The animals shouldn't have been set free.

8.L.1d

In the paragraph below there are four verbs or verb phrases in the incorrect voice (tense). You must recognize and circle the incorrect verbs or verb phrases. Then write the correct form of the verb or verb phrase on the lines below. The first two sentences are written in the correct voice (tense); use them as a guide for the rest of the paragraph.

It happened today. Algernon bit me. I visit the lab to see him as I do occasionally, and when I taking him out of his cage, he will snap at my hand. I put him back and watched him for a while. He was unusually disturb and vicious.

20. _____

22. _____

21. _____

23. _____

SECTION 2: Short Constructed-Response Assessment Questions

8.RI.6/8.RI.1

24. Complete Part A and B below:

Part A: What is PETA's position in the debate?

Part B: Cite at least two strong pieces of textual evidence that support PETA's position in the zoo debate.

Short Constructed-Response Scoring Guide #24 Parts A & B:***Proficient***

States PETA's position correctly
Minimum of two pieces of relevant supporting textual evidence

Progressing

States PETA's position vaguely
Two pieces of supporting textual evidence (one may be irrelevant)

Beginning

Incorrectly states or omits PETA's position
Includes no or incorrect pieces of supporting textual evidence

No Response

SECTION 3: Extended Constructed-Response Assessment Item

8.W.2

25. Write a letter to the owner of your local zoo explaining why you would like a job. Describe why you would be a good candidate for a position.

Extended Constructed-Response Scoring Guide #25:***Advanced***

All “Proficient” criteria *plus*:

More than three reasons of why they would be a good candidate
Minimal errors in correct standard English usage

Proficient

Written in correct letter format
Clear statement of intent
Three reasons of why they would be a good candidate
Maintains an appropriate formal language style
Includes a concluding statement

Progressing

Contains errors in letter format
Unclear statement of intent
Only gives two reasons of why they would be a good candidate
Maintains an appropriate formal language style for part of the letter

Beginning

No letter format
One or no reasons of why they would be a good candidate
Lacks formal language
Task to be repeated after re-teaching

No Response

SECTION 4: Essential Questions with Big Idea Responses

Student Directions: For the following Essential Question, write the Big Idea.

8.W.2b

26. How do writers support their argument?

Essential Questions-Big Ideas Scoring Guide #26:

Answered the Essential Question with the Corresponding Big Idea

- Yes
- No

No Response