

Tigers and gorillas for sale online

Level 1 | Elementary

1 Key vocabulary

Fill the gaps in the sentences using these words from the text.

trade	investigator	rare	stuffed
illegal	shocking	pharmacy	capture

1. If something is _____, you do not see it or find it very often.
2. A _____ is a shop which prepares and sells medicines.
3. If something is _____, it makes you feel very surprised or angry.
4. If something is _____, it is against the law.
5. An _____ is someone whose job is to find out the facts about something, especially a crime or an accident.
6. A _____ animal is a dead animal filled with material so that it looks alive.
7. To _____ an animal means to catch it and keep it in a cage.
8. _____ means buying and selling things.

2 Find the information

Look in the text and find this information as quickly as possible.

1. How much did the Siberian tiger cost?
2. What was the price of the giraffe?
3. How many apes did the investigators find?
4. How many animals and animal products did the investigators find on the internet?
5. What does IFAW stand for?
6. How much did the gorilla cost?

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Tigers and gorillas for sale online By John Vidal

Many animals around the world are very rare, gorillas and tigers, for example. There is a danger that in a few years time these animals will disappear from the world forever and we will only see them in photographs. Animals like these are known as endangered species and there are laws which protect endangered species. However, some people are buying and selling rare and endangered animals on the internet.

Investigators working with an international animal charity say that people are openly buying and selling thousands of endangered animals on the internet. The investigators looked at nearly 100 websites around the world and found a "shocking" selection of rare and endangered animals for sale. They included a Siberian tiger (\$70,000), a young gorilla (\$8,100) for sale in London, and other rare monkeys, birds, seahorses and whole turtle-shells. One of the most expensive was a two-year-old giraffe on sale for \$15,500 in the US.

The internet has brought great changes to shopping for books, DVDs and airline tickets, but it has also brought great opportunities for people to buy and sell animals illegally. According to the United Nations, trade in wild animals is worth billions of dollars a year and is now almost as big as the arms and drug trades. "In one week we found more than 9,000 wild animals and products made from wild animals for sale, mostly from

species protected by law," says the report for the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW). "We identified more than 100 traders" said the authors of the report.

The investigators found enough endangered animals for sale to stock whole zoos, and enough parts of dead animals to stock hundreds of Chinese pharmacies. "They included some of the world's most endangered species," the report says. "There were live Amazonian parrots, wild cats, a green turtle and even a live pet lion." They found 146 live apes in a week.

Buying and selling apes and monkeys is either illegal or strictly controlled. The gorilla for sale in London probably does not exist, said an IFAW spokeswoman. "It is possibly a Congo-based operation which will capture an animal when someone orders one." Some of the animals were definitely real, however, including rare turtle shells, clothes made from the Tibetan antelope, stuffed lions, rare birds, and a stuffed polar bear that looked quite new.

Thousands of species are endangered all over the world but the sellers do not have a problem finding animals to sell. IFAW says that the sellers include individuals who hope to make money by selling a single rare pet, and professional traders who have a regular supply. It seems that the sellers are not worried by the fact that it is illegal to buy and sell endangered animals. Perhaps they do not know that the law exists.

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3 Comprehension check

Decide whether these sentences are True or False.

1. Trade in wild animals is worth more than the arms and drug trades.
2. It is illegal to buy or sell any animal on the internet.
3. Buying and selling some rare animals, like apes for example, is illegal or strictly controlled.
4. The internet has made it more difficult for people to buy and sell rare animals.
5. Some people also sell stuffed animals.
6. There are laws which protect endangered species.

4 Vocabulary 1

Group these wildlife words depending on their type.

tiger	gorilla	falcon	seahorse	turtle	shark
giraffe	parrot	crocodile	antelope	polar bear	eagle
Mammals	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Birds	_____	_____	_____		
Fish	_____	_____			
Reptiles	_____	_____			

What other wildlife words do you know? Add two or three more words to each group.

5 Vocabulary 2 - Find the word

Fill the gaps by finding the words in the text.

1. The hard outer part that protects the body of a turtle is a turtle-_____.
2. Very rare animals are called _____ species.
3. IFAW is an international animal _____.
4. Trade in rare animals is _____ billions of dollars a year.
5. It is _____ to buy and sell endangered animals.
6. The investigators found more than 9,000 animals and animal products for _____.

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6 Vocabulary 3 - Word game

Rearrange these letters to make words from the text.

1. cesspie
2. lograil
3. redart
4. purecat
5. tryahic
6. duffset

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KEY

1 Key vocabulary

- | | |
|-------------|-----------------|
| 1. rare | 5. investigator |
| 2. pharmacy | 6. stuffed |
| 3. shocking | 7. capture |
| 4. illegal | 8. trade |

2 Find the information

1. \$70,000
2. \$15,500
3. 146
4. More than 9,000
5. The International Fund for Animal Welfare
6. \$8,100

3 Comprehension check

1. F; 2. F; 3. T; 4. F; 5. T; 6. T

4 Vocabulary 1

Mammals	tiger, gorilla, giraffe, antelope, polar bear
Birds	falcon, parrot, eagle
Fish	seahorse, shark
Reptiles	turtle, crocodile

5 Vocabulary 2

Find the word

- | | |
|---------------|------------|
| 1. shell | 4. worth |
| 2. endangered | 5. illegal |
| 3. charity | 6. sale |

6 Vocabulary 3

Word Game

- | | |
|------------|------------|
| 1. species | 4. capture |
| 2. gorilla | 5. charity |
| 3. trader | 6. stuffed |