

2020-02-01

Arbetsblad

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Vocabulary. Before listening, make sure that you are familiar with the following words:

rage	move with great force and intensity
appeal	an urgent and heartfelt request
estimate	approximate calculation
affect	make a difference to
charred	burnt and blackened
remains	parts left over
habitat	natural home or environment
extinction	the process of something dying out
species	a group of living organisms with similar genes
unprecedented	never done or known before
impact	a significant effect or influence
native	human or animal associated with the place
thrive	prosper; flourish
breed (verb)	animals mate and produce offspring
exposed	visible; unprotected; unsheltered
pollute	contaminate or poison with harmful substances
procreation	the production of offspring (babies)
reproductive	relating to the parts of the body which can create life
stigma	a mark of disgrace
miseducation	poor or harmful education
notable	worthy of attention
TOP	Termination of Pregnancy

Australia: Bushfires, wildlife and climate

1. Bushfires are common in Australia. Why are the bushfires this year particularly disastrous?

2. What was Harry Burkitt named by the Bob Brown Foundation in 2018?
 - a) Young Ecologist of the Year
 - b) Young Environmentalist of the Year
 - c) Youth Environment Advocate of the Year
 - d) Young Environment Representative of the Year

3. Harry Burkitt claims that there is going to be a “regional extinction of species”. What does he mean by this?

4. How many animals are estimated to have perished in the Australian bushfires since they started last year?
 - a) 1 million
 - b) 10 million
 - c) 1 billion
 - d) 100 million

India: The dangers of video games

5. Police in India state that a man suffered a stroke while playing a video game. What was the cause of his stroke, according to the police?
 - a) Over-excitement
 - b) Grief
 - c) Hunger
 - d) Anger

Canada: Meditation apps for staff

6. Free subscriptions on meditation apps for staff might be a good idea if you want your employees to stay happy and mentally healthy. What could such an app help employees with? List as many things as you can think of.

Ghana: Cina Soul

7. Circle whether the statement is TRUE or FALSE:
 - a) Igbo is spoken mainly in and around the capital of Ghana. TRUE/FALSE
 - b) Accra is the capital of Ghana. TRUE/FALSE

South Africa: Abortion and social stigma

8. Why are many girls in South Africa subject to illegal and unsafe abortions?

9. Dr Melusi Dlhamini is one of few medical practitioners who performs abortions. What reasons do his colleagues give for refusing to perform abortions?

10. When did abortions become legal in South Africa?

- a) 2007
- b) 1997
- c) 1987
- d) 1967

Discussion points:

Societal pressure: Alanna Leslie states that the pressures of society can be so powerful that even something that is legal can be treated as if it were illegal and punishable. Can you think of anything in your own society and context that is so frowned upon by society that it is done “in secret” even though it may be legal? Is the power that society can have a good thing or a bad thing? When could it be either or? Are there any social stigmas in your own society and context? Should they be addressed and confronted? Why or why not? Are there any stigmas that apply to women and not to men? Or vice versa?

Climate change: Explain what a habitat is. Pratha Nagpal argues that it has taken almost the death of one billion animals to convince politicians that climate change is real. Do you agree with Pratha that it has taken politicians too long to wake up to the realities of climate change? Could anything have been done to prevent the Australian bushfires? What needs to be done in the future to prevent fires like the ones raging in Australia? What needs to be done around the world to prevent various forms of extreme weather to cause catastrophes for people, property and animals? Do we do enough on a global level? Do we do enough on a local level?

The dangers of video games?: Do you think it’s possible to become so excited by a video game that you have a stroke? Have you ever been worryingly excited by a video game? Some people argue that video games that are violent and sexist desensitise young people and blur the boundaries between fiction and the real world. Do you agree with this? Do you think people who play a lot of video games are more likely to become violent in real life? What are your own experiences of video games?

Language points: Complete the following idiomatic expressions

11. Let's take a sprint around the...
 - a) gold
 - b) grass
 - c) globe

12. We'll listen to stories that have caught our...
 - a) mind
 - b) eye
 - c) ear

13. These things should not be discriminated...
 - a) against
 - b) towards
 - c) upon

14. It carries the stigma of ...
 - a) chains
 - b) silence
 - c) shame

15. The dire consequences are the loss of human life and...
 - a) prosperity
 - b) propriety
 - c) property

Key

- 1) Suggestion: Multiple fires have joined to form mega-fires leaving nowhere for wildlife to go. The scale of the fires are unprecedented; they are not supposed to burn this big and this hot.
- 2) b. Young Environmentalist of the Year
- 3) Suggestion: There might not be complete extinction of species but rather extinction in large bio-regions where the animal will no longer be able to perform its role as a member of the ecosystem.
- 4) c. 1 billion
- 5) a. over-excitement
- 6) Suggestion: stress, sleep-deprivation, anxiety, concentration, breathing, lowers blood pressure, muscle relaxation etc.
- 7) a. FALSE
b. TRUE
- 8) Suggestion: Because abortion is associated with a social stigma. It implies that the girl has been sexually active for other reasons than procreation and that is frowned upon by society.
- 9) Suggestion: They argue that their Christian faith does not allow them to perform abortions.
- 10) b. 1997
- 11) c. globe
- 12) b. eye
- 13) a. against
- 14) c. shame
- 15) c. property