

REFUGEE BEAR FINDS A HOME

Jan 14th, 2024

WARM-UP QUESTIONS: *Discuss the following questions with your partner(s).*

1. What are your favorite animals and why?
2. Read the headline above. Have you heard this news story? If so, say what you know. If not, can you guess what it is about?

VOCABULARY: *Match the following vocabulary words with a description. Use a dictionary if you need to.*

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|-------------------|--|
| 1. Refugee | a) the need or desire to drink |
| 2. To take a toll | b) a person who is not in the armed forces or an organization like the police |
| 3. Civilian | c) having no food for a long time, which can cause death |
| 4. Infrastructure | d) to cause damage |
| 5. Abandoned | e) in danger of being hurt or killed |
| 6. Shrapnel | f) the systems and structures that a country uses to work, such as roads, bridges, electricity, etc. |
| 7. Starvation | g) cutting down trees so that forests get smaller or disappear |
| 8. Thirst | h) illegal hunting |
| 9. Skinny | i) a person who has left their home or country because of danger |
| 10. Vulnerable | j) thin |
| 11. Deforestation | k) left permanently by its owner or guardian |
| 12. Poaching | l) pieces of metal that are thrown when a bullet or bomb explodes |

LISTEN: *Listen to the audio track on eslnewsstories.com or to a reader of the text. Try to fill in the missing words. Then check your answers with the full text (below).*

The war in Ukraine has taken a terrible toll. In addition to the deaths of soldiers and _____, infrastructure has been destroyed, and survivors have been forced to leave their homes, their towns, and even their country to find safety. Almost six _____ Ukrainian refugees have moved to other European countries, especially Poland, Germany, and the Czech Republic.

During a tragedy, animals can sometimes be forgotten. One furry _____, an Asian black bear named Yampil, has fortunately found a home far from the war zone. Yampil was living in a private zoo in the Donetsk region, an area that has seen direct conflict between opposing _____. Ukrainian soldiers found him in an abandoned private zoo where other animals had died from shrapnel, bullets, starvation, and thirst. Yampil, though injured and skinny, had amazingly survived. Yampil has since gone on quite the _____, first to Kyiv, then to a zoo in Poland, and then to an animal rescue center in Belgium, where he spent seven months. For the final stage of his travel, he crossed the _____ Channel and was taken to the Five Sisters Zoo in Scotland. Upon arrival, Yampil ate cucumbers and watermelon, and so far seems to be settling in well.

Asian black bears live all over _____ from Iran to Japan. They are considered to be a vulnerable species because of deforestation and poaching. Their body parts are used in traditional medicines in some cultures.

Yampil, however, is now _____ in his new home.

WORD FORMS: *Fill in different forms for the vocabulary from the article. Use a dictionary if you need to. Where there is an x, the word is unimportant for ESL students, has a different meaning, or does not exist. Sometimes there are multiple possible answers, and sometimes the adjective form is a past or present participle.*

VERB	ADJECTIVE	ADVERB	NOUN
	abandoned	x	
			starvation
			thirst

FULL STORY:

The war in Ukraine has taken a terrible toll. In addition to the deaths of soldiers and civilians, infrastructure has been destroyed, and survivors have been forced to leave their homes, their towns, and even their country to find safety. Almost six million Ukrainian refugees have moved to other European countries, especially Poland, Germany, and the Czech Republic.

During a tragedy, animals can sometimes be forgotten. One furry creature, an Asian black bear named Yampil, has fortunately found a home far from the war zone. Yampil was living in a private zoo in the Donetsk region, an area that has seen direct conflict between opposing armies. Ukrainian soldiers found him in an abandoned private zoo where other animals had died from shrapnel, bullets, starvation, and thirst. Yampil, though injured and skinny, had amazingly survived.

Yampil has since gone on quite the journey, first to Kyiv, then to a zoo in Poland, and then to an animal rescue center in Belgium, where he spent seven months. For the final stage of his travel, he crossed the English Channel and was taken to the Five Sisters Zoo in Scotland. Upon arrival, Yampil ate cucumbers and watermelon, and so far seems to be settling in well.

Asian black bears live all over Asia from Iran to Japan. They are considered to be a vulnerable species because of deforestation and poaching. Their body parts are used in traditional medicines in some cultures.

Yampil, however, is now safe in his new home.

Sources: apnews.com, wikipedia.org, fivesisterszoo.co.uk
For source links, see the article on ESLNewsStories.com

COMPREHENSION: *Decide if the following are true (T) or false (F), and then discuss your answers with your partner(s).*

1. More than six million Ukrainians have left Ukraine. (T / F)
2. There has been fighting in Donetsk. (T / F)
3. Some animals died because they didn't have food. (T / F)
4. Yampil will soon go to Scotland. (T / F)

COMPLETE: *Re-order the following sentences. Capitalize certain words and add punctuation.*

1. black / asian / be / are / medicine / to / used / sometimes / in / bears / killed
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2. scotland / yampil / home / in / has / a / new
-

DISCUSSION: *Discuss the following questions with your partner(s). Try to speak in sentences and ask follow-up questions.*

1. What did you think about this story? Was there any surprising information?
2. Do you like zoos? What is good or bad about them?
3. Have you ever seen a bear in real life? Where was it? What was it doing?
4. Besides cucumbers and watermelon, what do you think a bear likes to eat?
5. What do you know about Poland, Germany, and the Czech Republic?
6. If your country became dangerous, where would you go?

