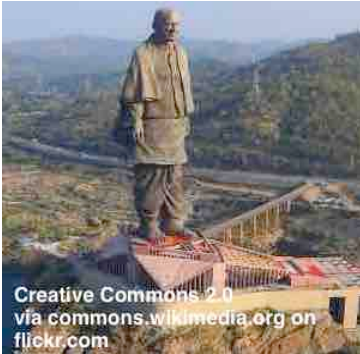


Crocodiles moved from world's tallest statue

29th January, 2019



Workers in India are moving over 300 crocodiles from their home because they are too near a new tourist sight. Officials in India's state of Gujarat want to move the crocs because they could be a danger to tourists visiting the new Statue of Unity. The statue

opened to the public last October. It is 182m high and is the tallest statue in the world. It is next to a reservoir, which is also home to many crocodiles. Tourism officials want the giant reptiles moved so seaplanes for tourists can land on the reservoir. If the crocodiles stayed, they could be dangerous and attack tourists. Officials are using cages to catch the animals. Some of them are over 3m long. They are going to a new home in another part of Gujarat.

Animal lovers are angry that people are moving the crocodiles. Dr Jitendra Gavali said: "The government is disturbing their habitat and putting their lives at risk. The government hasn't thought out where it will release the captured crocodiles safely." So far, only 17 of the animals have been caught and moved. The editor of the environmental magazine 'Sanctuary Asia', Bittu Sahgal, said the idea to move the crocodiles was crazy. He tweeted: "Have we collectively lost our minds? As any environmentalist will tell you, this is sheer insanity." Indian journalist and activist Prithvi Nandy said moving the crocodiles could break India's wildlife protection laws. An official said the crocodiles had to go for "security reasons".

Sources: bbc.com / cnn.com / sky.com

Writing

Animals should never be moved from their natural habitat. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

workers / India / tourist sight / danger / statue / reptiles / reservoir / cages / home / animal lovers / habitat / government / environmental / crazy / journalist / protection

True / False

- a) Just under 300 crocodiles are being moved from a tourist site in India. T / F
- b) Officials say the crocodiles are a danger to the Statue of Unity. T / F
- c) Officials want to move the crocs so seaplanes can land on a reservoir. T / F
- d) The crocodiles are being caught using giant nets. T / F
- e) Animal lovers are happy that the crocodiles are being moved. T / F
- f) A doctor said the government hasn't thought about the animals' safety. T / F
- g) An environmentalist said moving the crocs was a crazy idea. T / F
- h) Moving the crocs could break India's wildlife protection laws. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------|
| 1. moving | a. annoyed |
| 2. danger | b. area |
| 3. giant | c. leave |
| 4. catch | d. mad |
| 5. part | e. relocating |
| 6. angry | f. total |
| 7. habitat | g. capture |
| 8. crazy | h. hazard |
| 9. sheer | i. home |
| 10. go | j. huge |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you know about crocodiles?
- b) What is the most famous statue in your country?
- c) Would you like to visit the Statue of Unity?
- d) Do you think the crocodiles should be moved?
- e) Should we try and live together with animals?
- f) How could officials stop crocodiles attacking people?
- g) How dangerous and scary are crocodiles?
- h) Why are crocodiles so dangerous?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|---|----------------------------|
| 1. they could | a. reasons |
| 2. giant | b. to catch the animals |
| 3. they could be dangerous | c. lovers are angry |
| 4. Officials are using cages | d. be a danger to tourists |
| 5. going to a new home in another | e. and attack tourists |
| 6. Animal | f. have been caught |
| 7. The government is disturbing their | g. insanity |
| 8. So far, only 17 of the animals | h. part of Gujarat |
| 9. this is sheer | i. habitat |
| 10. the crocodiles had to go for security | j. reptiles |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- What is the difference between crocodiles and alligators?
- What is the best statue in the world?
- Is it wrong to move animals for a new building?
- How much of an animal lover are you?
- How much do humans care about animal habitats?
- Which is more important - business or nature?
- What questions would you like to ask the tourist sight officials?

Spelling

- they are too near a new ouisrtt sight
- they could be a ngaerd
- The statue opened to the ublcip
- It is next to a vrrsiereo
- the giant lpeteris
- ailcsoffi are using cages
- disturbing their thtiaab
- eealers the captured crocodiles
- eotdir of the environmental magazine
- ostrnilaju and activist
- break India's wildlife etrotpcion laws
- ytucires reasons

Answers – Synonym Match

1. e	2. h	3. j	4. g	5. b
6. a	7. i	8. d	9. f	10. c

Role Play

Role A – Statue of Unity

You think the Statue of Unity is the world's best statue. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their statues. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): the Statue of Liberty, the Venus de Milo or the Easter Island Moai.

Role B – Statue of Liberty

You think the Statue of Liberty is the world's best statue. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their statues. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): the Statue of Unity, the Venus de Milo or the Easter Island Moai.

Role C – Venus de Milo

You think the Venus de Milo is the world's best statue. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their statues. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): the Statue of Liberty, the Statue of Unity or the Easter Island Moai.

Role D – Easter Island Moai

You think the Easter Island Moai are the world's best statues. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their statues. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): the Statue of Liberty, the Venus de Milo or the Statue of Unity.

Speaking – Statues

Rank these with your partner. Put the best statues at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| • Statue of Liberty | • Tian Tan Buddha |
| • Statue of Unity | • Christ the Redeemer |
| • Rodin's Thinker | • Michelangelo's David |
| • Venus de Milo | • Easter Island Moai |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	F	c	T	d	F	e	F	f	T	g	T	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.