COVID-19 could cut wildlife trade

9th April, 2020

Creative Commons 2.0 via Javier Abalos on flickr.com

Conservation experts are saying that the trade in wildlife could be greatly cut after the coronavirus pandemic has finished. They say that the virus probably started at a market selling wild animals in China. The virus came from either a bat or an animal called a pangolin. It then crossed over to infect humans. The conservation group Humane Society International said: "The consumption of wild animals which can carry diseases that can cross the species barrier poses a real threat to human health." The Wildlife Conservation Society called for a ban of animal markets that trade in wildlife. It said: "Not only will this help to prevent the spread of disease, it will address one of the major drivers of species extinction."

A spokesman from the Zoological Society of London said animal markets could be "time bombs". He said the markets can provide perfect conditions for new viruses to start and grow. He added that if we treated animals like goods to buy and sell, we would be in trouble again in the future. Scientists say many new outbreaks of viruses start in animals. About 75 per cent of new infectious diseases come from animals. Recent examples include SARS, MERS and Ebola. Infections from animals cause millions of illnesses and deaths worldwide every year. An expert said the world must act soon, because, "realistically, it's just a matter of time before the next zoonotic disease risk emerges".

Sources: bbc.com / civilbeat.org / aljazeera.com

Writing

There should be an end to any kind of trade in animals. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

conservation / experts / trade / wildlife / coronavirus / bat / diseases / extinction / spokesman / time bomb / perfect / trouble / infectious / outbreak / worldwide / time

True / False

a) Conservationists say COVID-19 will end the trade in wildlife. T / F

b) The article said the COVID-19 coronavirus came from a rat. T / F

c) The COVID-19 coronavirus crossed over from an animal to humans. T / F

d) Conservationists say ending the wildlife trade will end species extinction. T / F

e) A zoological society said wildlife markets were like time bombs. T / F

f) A zoologist said we will be in more trouble if we buy and sell animals. T / F

g) About 75% of new infectious diseases come from animals. T / F

h) Viruses like SARS and Ebola caused billions of illnesses. T / F

Synonym Match

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

1.	**experts**	a.	presents
2.	**cut**	b.	comes out
3.	**came**	c.	difficulty
4.	**poses**	d.	originated
5.	**major**	e.	ideal
6.	**perfect**	f.	specialists
7.	**trouble**	g.	spreadable
8.	**infectious**	h.	globally
9.	**worldwide**	i.	reduced
10.	**emerges**	j.	main

Discussion – Student A

a) What do you think about what you read?

b) What do you think of zoos?

c) Why might animal markets be like time bombs?

d) Should we change our lifestyles from now?

e) Should governments spend more on planning for future outbreaks?

f) What do you know about other outbreaks?

g) Do you think humans get too close to animals?

h) What questions would you like to ask the conservation experts?

Phrase Match

1. after the coronavirus pandemic
2. the virus probably started
3. It then crossed over to
4. wild
5. help to prevent the spread
6. animal markets could be
7. perfect conditions for new viruses
8. we would be in trouble again
9. cause millions of illnesses and
10. it's just a matter of

a. infect humans
b. time
c. of disease
d. at a market
e. "time bombs"
f. in the future
g. has finished
h. deaths worldwide
i. animals
j. to start

Discussion – Student B

a) What do you think of the wildlife trade?
b) What do you think of the trade in cows, sheep and pigs?
c) Do you think the wildlife trade will change in the future?
d) What actions would you take about the wildlife trade?
e) Should people who trade in wild animals be punished?
f) How can we educate more people about species extinction?
g) What do you think of ending the trade in animal fur?
h) What do you think of trading animals in pet shops?

Spelling

1. Conservation tsxpree
2. the coronavirus mecipnda
3. It then crossed over to cefnti humans
4. cross the species irarber
5. prevent the rpades of disease
6. species ixtitocenn
7. piedvro perfect conditions
8. many new euortsbka
9. terenc examples
10. nlseseils and deaths
11. taliirlcalesy, it's just a matter of time
12. risk seeegrm

Role Play

Role A – Pandemics

You think pandemics are the biggest danger to the world. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their danger isn't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least dangerous of these (and why): terrorism, nuclear war or artificial intelligence.

Role B – Terrorism

You think terrorism is the biggest danger to the world. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their danger isn't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least dangerous of these (and why): pandemics, nuclear war or artificial intelligence.

Role C – Nuclear War

You think nuclear war is the biggest danger to the world. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their danger isn't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least dangerous of these (and why): terrorism, pandemics or artificial intelligence.

Role D – Artificial Intelligence

You think artificial intelligence is the biggest danger to the world. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their danger isn't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least dangerous of these (and why): terrorism, nuclear war or pandemics.

Speaking – Dangers

Rank these with your partner. Put the biggest dangers to the world at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- cyber wars
- GM food
- artificial intelligence
- terrorism
- pandemics
- global warming
- overpopulation
- nuclear war

Answers – Synonym Match

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

Answers – True False

a F	b F	c T	d F	e T	f T	g T	h F

Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.