

Tasmanian devils reintroduced into mainland Australia

8th October, 2020



An animal that has not lived on the Australian mainland in over 3,000 years is back. The creature is the Tasmanian devil. Conservation groups in the state of New South Wales on Australia's east coast released a group of 26 of the mammals. They put

them in a large nature reserve north of the city of Sydney. The Tasmanian devil is the size of a small dog. It feeds on large birds and household waste. It has been an endangered species for decades after dingoes (an Australian wild dog) wiped them out on mainland Australia. The devil gets its name from its high-pitched squeal and the fierce way it fights for food. Despite its scary-sounding name, experts say it is not a danger to humans.

The conservation group Aussie Ark worked with other animal protection groups on the project to release the Tasmanian devils. The animals are on a nature reserve to help keep their chances of survival high. They have been left to find their own food and survive by themselves. Tim Faulkner, president of Aussie Ark, told National Geographic: "They are free. They're out there. We've got some basic means of keeping an eye on them, but essentially, now it's over to the devils to do what they do." He was hopeful about the future of the devils, saying: "This release of devils will be the first of many. We are talking about something monumental, a true landmark in history."

Sources: bbc.com / news.com.au / odt.co.nz

Writing

Endangered animals should be kept in zoos to keep them safe. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

animal / mainland / creature / mammal / dog / endangered species / squeal / fierce conservation / protection / survival / president / basic / devil / the future / landmark

True / False

- a) The article said the Tasmanian devil is 3,000 years old. T / F
- b) Conservationists released 260 Tasmanian devils into the wild. T / F
- c) The Tasmanian devil is about the size of a small dog. T / F
- d) The Tasmanian devil is very dangerous to humans. T / F
- e) A conservation group put the Tasmanian devils on an ark. T / F
- f) The released Tasmanian devils must find their own food. T / F
- g) The conversation group will keep an eye on the Tasmanian devils. T / F
- h) The conservation group wants to build a landmark to the devils. T / F

Synonym Match

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

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------|
| 1. creature | a. program |
| 2. released | b. trash |
| 3. reserve | c. turning point |
| 4. waste | d. possibility |
| 5. experts | e. set free |
| 6. project | f. optimistic |
| 7. chances | g. specialists |
| 8. basic | h. animal |
| 9. hopeful | i. simple |
| 10. landmark | j. national park |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you know about Tasmanian devils?
- b) What do you think of the name Tasmanian devil?
- c) What do you know about Australian animals?
- d) How do animals become endangered?
- e) What can we do to protect endangered animals?
- f) What animals are endangered in your country?
- g) What do you think of wild animals?
- h) What do you know about Tasmania?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|---|------------------------|
| 1. The creature is | a. nature reserve |
| 2. They put them in a large | b. on them |
| 3. It has been an endangered species | c. in history |
| 4. The devil gets its name from its high- | d. the Tasmanian devil |
| 5. experts say it is not a | e. first of many |
| 6. They have been left to find | f. pitched squeal |
| 7. keeping an eye | g. do what they do |
| 8. it's over to the devils to | h. danger to humans |
| 9. This release of devils will be the | i. their own food |
| 10. a true landmark | j. for decades |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- What do conservation groups do?
- Would you like to work with animals?
- Should endangered species be kept in zoos?
- What endangered species would you most like to protect?
- Should more animals be released in the wild?
- How hopeful are you about the future of animals in the wild?
- What questions would you like to ask the conservationists?

Spelling

- The arectuer is the Tasmanian devil
- in a large nature srreeve
- an endangered ciapses for decades
- its high-pitched sluaeq
- the iefcre way it fights
- pxserte say it is not a danger
- The niserotavnco group Aussie Ark
- other animal ecptionrto groups
- find their own food and suvirev by themselves
- This esaeler of devils
- talking about something eommlnuant
- a true rlkandam in history

Answers – Synonym Match

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

Role Play

Role A – Black Rhino

You think the black rhino is the species most in need of protecting. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their species isn't in as great need. Also, tell the others which of these is the least in need of protection (and why): the sea turtle, the monarch butterfly or Texas wild rice.

Role B – Sea Turtle

You think the sea turtle is the species most in need of protecting. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their species isn't in as great need. Also, tell the others which of these is the least in need of protection (and why): the black rhino, the monarch butterfly or Texas wild rice.

Role C – Monarch Butterfly

You think the monarch butterfly is the species most in need of protecting. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their species isn't in as great need. Also, tell the others which of these is the least in need of protection (and why): the sea turtle, the black rhino or Texas wild rice.

Role D – Texas Wild Rice

You think Texas wild rice is the species most in need of protecting. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their species isn't in as great need. Also, tell the others which of these is the least in need of protection (and why): the sea turtle, the monarch butterfly or the black rhino.

Speaking – Species

Rank these with your partner. Put the endangered species we should protect first at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------|
| • Yellowfin tuna | • Black rhino |
| • Monarch butterfly | • Gorilla |
| • Poison dart frog | • Sea turtle |
| • Texas wild rice | • Polar bear |

Answers – True False

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