

Name: _____ () Class: _____ Date: _____

Your friend will give a speech about the pangolin at the school assembly and he wants you to read his speech. He has also given you a species profile about the pangolin. Read your friend's speech and the species profile.

Text 1 Speech



- ① How many of you know that World Pangolin Day is coming up? This special day is held on the third Saturday of February every year. I first heard of this animal when I was watching a documentary about illegal wildlife trade with my brother. The narrator asked the audience to spread awareness of this problem. Since it is Wildlife Week here at school, my brother, who's a fervent animal lover, urged me to share with you why the pangolin needs our help today.
- ② There are a total of eight species of pangolins in the world—four of them in Asia and four of them in Africa. They're the only mammal on earth that is covered from head to tail in scales. When they feel threatened, they roll themselves up into a tight ball. Their armour of scales protects them against predators in the wild. But it's also because of their passivity that they've become easy prey for unscrupulous poachers.
- ③ The pangolin's population is difficult to predict. This is because it's crucial for them to stay off the radar of predators. Having said that, we do know that six of the species are either threatened or endangered. Their scales are believed to have medicinal properties. They supposedly help cure a number of health conditions, including blood circulation problems, inflammation and breastfeeding issues. However, there's no actual scientific basis for these claims. Their flesh is also considered a delicacy in some countries. It can fetch a high price in restaurants.

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④ It is believed that illegal pangolin trade now accounts for up to 20% of the entire wildlife black market. At least 100,000 pangolins are slaughtered each year. This makes them the most trafficked animal on the planet! It's cruel of humans to drive this unique species to the brink of extinction. It's painfully clear that something needs to be done to rescue the defenceless pangolin.



⑤ My teacher once told me that we all have the power to change what we think is wrong. It's infuriating that many species have already become extinct because of humans. Soon the pangolin will disappear if we continue to ignore the long-term problem of illegal wildlife trade. It's possible for us to stop this together by raising awareness and supporting organizations dedicated to wildlife conservation. The pangolin is in need of our help. Let's take a stand together and say 'no' to wildlife trafficking!

Text 2 Species profile

Pangolin facts

Weight: 13 to 18 kg

Length: 30 to 99 cm

Lifespan: 20 years

Habitat: Forests and grasslands

5 **Behaviour:** Shy, solitary and nocturnal

Diet: Insectivorous

Predators: Lions, leopards, hyenas, tigers and humans

Species in Asia: Indian pangolin, Philippine pangolin*, Sunda pangolin and Chinese pangolin*

10 **Species in Africa:** Black-bellied pangolin, White-bellied pangolin, Giant Ground pangolin and Temminck's Ground pangolin

*Critically endangered



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Comprehension 1 & 2 Your brother wants to know more about the pangolin. Answer his questions using information from the speech and the species profile. For multiple-choice questions, choose the best answer and blacken ONE circle only.

Speech

- 1 When is World Pangolin Day?

- 2 What does 'this problem' (line 4) refer to?

- 3 Why did the writer's brother ask him to give the speech?
 - ☐ A because pangolins are his favourite animals
 - ☐ B because he is passionate about helping animals
 - ☐ C because he wants to promote the medicinal value of pangolin scales
 - ☐ D because he wants everyone to see how adorable pangolins are
- 4 i) How many different species of pangolins are there in the world?

ii) Which continents do they live in?

- 5 Why does the pangolin curl up into a 'tight ball'? (line 9)
 - ☐ A to roll down hills
 - ☐ B to protect itself from predators
 - ☐ C to make itself look cute
 - ☐ D to attack prey
- 6 Why is it difficult to predict the pangolin's population?

- 7 What are the TWO reasons that the pangolin is being hunted?
 - i) _____
 - ii) _____
- 8 How many pangolins have been killed in the past decade?
 - ☐ A 10,000 ☐ C 1,000,000
 - ☐ B 100,000 ☐ D 10,000,000
- 9 According to paragraph 4, which of the following best describes the writer's attitude towards pangolin trading?
 - ☐ A He thinks that it is inhumane.
 - ☐ B He thinks that it is depressing.
 - ☐ C He thinks that it is irrational.
 - ☐ D He thinks that it is unrealistic.
- 10 How can people help the pangolin? Give TWO examples from the speech.
 - i) _____
 - ii) _____

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Further simplified reading and comprehension

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Unit 5

Name: _____ () Class: _____ Date: _____

11 Number the following events in chronological order. Write 1–4 on the lines.

The writer writes the speech. _____

The writer watches the wildlife documentary. _____

The writer's brother asks him to give a speech about the pangolin. _____

Pangolins are captured for trading. _____

12 What is the purpose of the speech?

13 Find words from Text 1 that have the following meanings.

i) having or showing very strong and sincere feelings about something (paragraph 1)	
ii) without moral principles; not honest or fair (paragraph 2)	
iii) (an animal) killed for its meat (paragraph 2)	
iv) bought and sold illegally (paragraph 4)	
v) making you extremely angry (paragraph 5)	

Species profile

14 Complete the following fact card about the pangolin using information from Text 2.

The pangolin

The pangolin (i) _____ from 13 to 18 kilograms and can range from 30 centimetres to almost (ii) _____ metre long. In the wild, they can live for around (iii) _____ years. The pangolin lives in the forests and (iv) _____. They are (v) _____, meaning that they feed mainly on insects. They live solitarily and are most active at (vi) _____. Their natural predators are lions, leopards, hyenas and tigers, but their biggest threat is (vii) _____. Currently, (viii) _____ of the species are critically (ix) _____.