

Middle School Reading Article

Wildlife Groups Want Giraffes Added to Endangered Species List (1180L)

Instructions: COMPLETE ALL QUESTIONS AND MARGIN NOTES using the CLOSE reading strategies practiced in class. This requires reading of the article three times.

Step 1: Skim the article using these symbols as you read:

(+) agree, (-) disagree, (*) important, (!) surprising, (?) wondering

Step 2: Number the paragraphs. **Read** the article **carefully** and **make notes in the margin**.

Notes should include:

- Comments that show that you **understand** the article. (A summary or statement of the main idea of important sections may serve this purpose.)
- Questions you have that show what you are **wondering** about as you read.
- Notes that differentiate between **fact** and **opinion**.
- Observations about how the **writer's strategies** (organization, word choice, perspective, support) and choices affect the article.

Step 3: A final quick read noting anything you may have missed during the first two reads.

Your **margin notes** are part of your score for this assessment. Answer the questions carefully in **complete sentences** unless otherwise instructed.

Student _____ Class Period _____

Wildlife Groups Want Giraffes Added To Endangered Species List

With its spindly legs, distinctive patterning, and absurdly long neck, the giraffe makes a compelling figure on the savanna. But the population of the world's tallest mammal has dropped sharply in recent decades – from about 150,000 in 1985, to fewer than 100,000 today.

That decline prompted five wildlife groups to petition the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on Wednesday to classify the giraffe as an endangered species. They say the giraffe is facing increasing threats from habitat loss, illegal hunting for bush meat and an international trade in trophies and bone carvings.

Giraffes aren't native to the U.S., but FWS classifies foreign species, too. There are a few ways the U.S. classification could help the giraffe population rebound in Africa, says Jeffrey Flocken, regional director for International Fund for Animal Welfare, one of the groups behind the petition.

He says that from 2006 to 2015, the U.S. was responsible for importing 3,744 giraffe hunting trophies. That's almost one per day.

"The biggest reason to petition to list it under the U.S. Endangered Species Act," Flocken says, "is while we can't stop people from killing species in other countries, we can stop them bringing the parts back to the United States. So if this were successful, it would either limit or outright stop import of giraffe parts."

Notes on my thoughts, reactions and questions as I read:

Middle School Reading Article

Wildlife Groups Want Giraffes Added to Endangered Species List (1180L)

In addition to limiting imports, Flocken notes that species classified as endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act get more attention – and greater opportunities for funding to monitor and protect the species.

"It's a bit of a Catch-22," says Flocken. "Until a species is declared imperiled — either endangered or threatened — there isn't much recording and monitoring done of what is going on with that species. There could be scientists studying their biology and their life in the wild, but at the same time perhaps no one is monitoring their trade."

FWS would not comment or confirm receipt of the petition, but its website explains its process for petition review. Once a petition is received, the FWS (or the National Marine Fisheries Service for most marine species) makes a determination within 90 days as to whether there is "substantial information" that the potential listing may be warranted.

"By regulating activities, the United States ensures that people under the jurisdiction of the United States do not contribute to the further decline of listed species," it says.

Perhaps the most recent similar campaign concerned the lion. A petition was filed on its behalf in March 2011, Flocken says, and it took until Dec. 2015 for the lion to be classified as endangered. (Some have speculated that it was the infamous killing of Cecil the Lion earlier that year that spurred the Service to add the species to the endangered list, but Flocken insists the decision was based on science: "We knew that trophy hunting contributed to the decline of the species.")

The petition — and the giraffe's prospects — may benefit from the popularity the species enjoys among the general public.

"If you ask any random group of folks here in the U.S. what their favorite animal is, ultimately giraffes are going to be in the top five," Flocken says. "People love them. And I think the new knowledge that they're in trouble is going to surprise many individuals, and I think there will be a movement in the conservation community and the general public to help save them."

Notes on my thoughts, reactions and questions as I read:

This article addresses the following CCSS ELA Standards in addition to those noted.

*7/8.W.1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10
7/8.L.1,2,3,4,5,6,
7/8.SL.1,2,3,4,5,6*

Middle School Reading Article

Wildlife Groups Want Giraffes Added to Endangered Species List (1180L)

Comprehension questions – answers may be in phrases.

1. *Name two U.S. agencies that have the power to list animals as endangered.*
2. *What is a “catch-22”?*
3. *Define **imperiled** as used in the article.*
4. *List three distinguishing characteristics of a giraffe described in the text.*
5. *Define **trophy hunting** as used in the text.*

7/8.RI.1,3,4,5

Answer each question in one or more complete sentences and by providing complete explanations.

1. *List and cite two examples of O/P (occasion/position) sentences in the text.*
2. *Using a highlighter, locate four commas in the text. Number each from 1-4 and explain the purpose of each comma in the space below.*

7/8.RI.5

Middle School Reading Article

Wildlife Groups Want Giraffes Added to Endangered Species List (1180L)

3. *In your opinion, should the U.S. Fish and Wildlife list the giraffe as endangered? Cite evidence from the text to support your answer in a well-developed paragraph.*

7/8.RI.1,2,3,8,9

4. *By what percentage has the giraffe population decreased since 1985?*

7/8.RI.1,3,8