

## Extra Reading Practice – Wildlife Photography

### Wildlife Photography Is More Important than Ever

*Amanda Fenton explains why so many people love wildlife photos.*

I What objects would you try to save if a fire broke out in your home? In a survey carried out by the Association of British Insurers in 2016, a third of the participants claimed they would save their photographs from their burning house. Clearly, our photographs mean a lot to us as they remind us of special occasions and shared moments with family and friends.

II This photo fascination is also extended to the enduring appeal of wildlife photography. We love looking at photos of animals in nature because these photos affect us emotionally, just like our own personal photos do. I remember seeing a beautiful image of a pair of long-legged cranes with their heads back, looking up to the sky, which made me smile and think that these birds had just shared a hilarious joke. In contrast, there's the heart-breaking photo of a bison protecting her injured calf in Yellowstone Park, which was taken as the mother repeatedly fought off coyotes and wolves for three days, before finally abandoning the calf in the snow to join the other travelling bison.

III Wildlife photography can also trigger the sentiment felt by the photographer. The close-up photo of

IV a massive brown bear was captured by the photographer Tin Man Lee. He explained how he froze in fear when the bear looked into his eyes. Fortunately for Tin Man Lee, the bear was more interested in the salmon that it was trying to catch.

Finally, wildlife photos can be a reminder of the harsh reality of the climate crisis, endangered species, and the effects of human activity on nature. For example, a photo of a pair of polar bears fast asleep on melting ice is an image that I cannot forget. This stunning and telling photo, which shows what is happening to our planet and its effects on animals, is why I believe wildlife photography is so important for the world to see.

**1 Choose the correct answer.**

- 1 What does the result of the survey show?
  - a We love wildlife photography.
  - b We take a lot of photos with family and friends.
  - c We consider our photos to be very important objects.
  
- 2 What can we infer about the calf in paragraph II?
  - a The calf survived and was able to return to the herd.
  - b The calf and the mother were eaten by coyotes or wolves.
  - c The calf did not survive, but the mother did.
  
- 3 Why does the author think wildlife photography is especially relevant to today's world?
  - a It shows us the effects that humans have on nature.
  - b We can learn about exotic creatures.
  - c More people are showing an interest in it.

**2 Decide if the following sentences are true (T) or false (F). Find evidence in the text to support your answers.**

- 1 The survey showed that the majority of people would save photos from a house fire. ....  
.....
  
- 2 The birds in paragraph II made the writer sad. ....  
.....
  
- 3 Tin Man Lee was terrified when he took the photo of the bear. ....  
.....

**3 Answer the questions.**

- 1 How are people affected by wildlife photography?  
.....
  
- 2 What is significant about the photo of the polar bears?  
.....

**4 Rewrite the sentences without changing the original meaning.**

1 I saw the photo of the bison looking after her calf.

In the photo, the calf .....

2 I didn't know what a crane was until I saw that photo.

If .....

**5 Find words or expressions in the text that mean:**

1 conducted (paragraph I) .....

2 very funny (paragraph II) .....

3 extremely sad (paragraph II) .....

4 brutal (paragraph IV) .....

**Answer Key**

1 1 c    2 c    3 a

2 1 F – “... a third of the participants claimed they would save their photographs from their burning house.”

2 F – “... made me smile and think that these birds had just shared a hilarious joke.”

3 T – “He explained how he froze in fear when the bear looked into his eyes.”

3 1 They relate to the images on an emotional level – they find them funny or sad; they feel what the photographer might have felt; it shows them the effects of their activities on nature.

2 It shows the effect of climate change on the bears.

4 1 was being looked after by its mother

2 I hadn't seen that photo, I wouldn't have known what a crane was

5 1 carried out                      3 heart-breaking

2 hilarious                          4 harsh