

CLASS- VIII

Case Study

Many people love the cute koala bear. This animal has been made into stuffed toys all over the world. But it is rare to see this creature alive and moving, because it's gradually becoming extinct. The koala, like the kangaroo, is actually a marsupial. It contains a small pouch for its young, like the kangaroo. For this reason, the koala is not related to true bears. In appearance, it is a combination of a monkey and a kangaroo. Koalas are native to Australia and they are now chiefly found in New South Wales and Queensland. They are highly protected animals, because their number has greatly diminished in the last ten years.

The koala has been hunted since the middle of this century for fur and food, which has moved it from its normal habitats. Today, anyone found harming a koala is severely punished by the law. Koalas get their endearing appearance from a covering of gray fur and little tufts of white hair on the sides of their faces. Their eyes are small and black, set in their head. They have large ears and curved noses, but no tail. They use their arms and paws to climb through the trees. Koalas have interesting living habits. They are nocturnal, which means that they move around chiefly at night. Koalas do not stay on the ground. They move from tree to tree, carefully lowering and raising themselves by their paws. Koalas eat only the leaves of the eucalyptus, which is another reason that they are now becoming extinct.

The eucalyptus tree is disappearing from their natural habitats, fighting a battle against extinction on their own. Koalas have a surprisingly long life span, which can range from 9 to 20 years, in rare cases. The koala's worst enemy, besides hunters, is fire. When a tree is inflamed, often they cannot run fast enough to save themselves. Baby koalas are in danger around certain kinds of lizards and eagles, although they are protected today by natural habitats set up for them. It is interesting to note that many koalas die from being hit by cars, and some are even attacked by dogs!

Answer the following:

1. What has led the Koala bear to move away from its normal habitat?

A)

To escape from being hunted for fur and food

B)

To avoid the danger from lizards

C)

It needs a different environment now

D)

The normal habitat does not provide sufficient food

2. Which of the following are causes of danger to Koala bears?

A)

Fire, Lizards

B)

Accidents with vehicles, dogs

C)

Both (a) and (b)

D)

Their nocturnal habits

3. Which of the following statements is false about Koala bears?

A)

Koala bears eat eucalyptus leaves

B)

Koala bears have large ears and curved noses

C)

Koala bears have small black eyes

D)

Koala bears have long tails

4. of following statements is true about Koala bears?

A)

They can safely live among animals and birds like dogs and eagles

B)

Koalas have a long life span

C)

Koala bears are commonly found all over the world

D)

Koalas do not use their paws as much as their arms

5. Whom are baby Koalas in danger around?

6. Why are the Koalas not related to true bears?

7. Where are Koalas chiefly found?

8. How long can Koalas live?