

## ANIMAL NEWS

# HAMISH MOVES HOUSE



Three-year-old Hamish in his new home

**HAMISH, the first polar bear to be born in the UK for 25 years, has moved into his new home at Yorkshire Wildlife Park.**

The young cub travelled in a specially adapted lorry from Highland Wildlife Park in Scotland, where he was born.

For the past three years Hamish has shared an enclosure with his mum, Victoria. He has been a firm favourite with Scottish visitors, but now it's time for him to go.

Rachel Williams, a senior keeper at the park, explained: "In the wild, polar bear cubs will stay with their mothers for two to three years, so this is a natural time for Hamish to be moving on." She added: "I'm sure Victoria will appreciate some peace and quiet!"

Once he has settled into his new home, Hamish will be introduced to the other young male bears already living at the park's Project Polar reserve.

Project Polar is one of the biggest polar bear reserves in the world. It has been designed to look like the Arctic in the summer months, with lakes, caves and plants that the bears would find in their natural habitat. It is the only place in England where you can see polar bears.

Hamish's move is part of a European project to study and care for these iconic predators. He will live at the park until he reaches adulthood and can be matched with a female bear. Hopefully, Hamish will be a dad himself one day!

## Questions on: 'Hamish moves house'

1) Where is Hamish being moved from and where is he going?

From: \_\_\_\_\_

To: \_\_\_\_\_

2) Why is such a big fuss being made about this bear in the UK?

3) Why is now a good time to move Hamish?

4) In which part of the world do polar bears live in the wild?

- Arctic
- Antarctica
- Asia

5) Why hasn't Hamish been introduced to other polar bears yet?

6a) How has the Yorkshire Wildlife Park tried to make its polar bear area as natural as possible? What does it contain?

6b) One part of a polar bear's environment must be very hard to include in a UK zoo. What is the missing substance?

7) In what order do you find out this information?  
Label the options 1-4.

- A description of Project Polar
- Hamish's early life
- Hamish's future
- Information about the move

8) A lorry had to be specially altered to carry Hamish safely on his journey. What sort of changes do you think were made to the lorry?

## BIG NEWS

# COULD SEAWEED SOLVE HUNGER?



Super seaweed – is there anything it can't do?

**FARMING seaweed in the ocean could provide enough protein to feed the entire world.**

According to Vincent Doumeizel from the United Nations, seaweed is pretty amazing. “It’s extremely protein-rich... and rich in vitamins, zinc and iron,” he says.

And the ocean is full of it! According to Vincent, farming just a tiny fraction of the ocean (two-hundredths) could feed 12 billion people.

Seaweed is already a popular food in parts of Asia. “Most Japanese people eat seaweed three times a day, it is used in many dishes in Korea, and is eaten by many people in China,” Vincent explains.

But seaweed isn’t just a nutritious food. It can be made into an animal feed that is much better for the environment than other popular options, such as soy beans.

It can also be used as a fertiliser, a replacement for plastic and it’s an ingredient in some medicines. Plus, while seaweed grows in the ocean, it cleans the water and helps to tackle ocean pollution!

It sounds like marvellous stuff, so why isn’t seaweed used more? Well, there’s not much space to grow underwater kelp forests close to the coasts, and at the moment it is difficult to get permission to grow them off-shore. We also need to agree safety standards for seaweed products.

To try to help, the United Nations has just published a Seaweed Manifesto – their vision for a seaweed-filled future!

## GLOSSARY

**United Nations** – An organisation of 193 countries that began just after the Second World War. It helps countries work together to solve problems

## Questions on: 'Could seaweed solve hunger?'

1) Why is seaweed a good food? What does it contain?

2) Can you find the **word** that describes a food that is full of substances needed by our bodies?

3) Who says that seaweed could (potentially) provide enough protein to feed the world?

- A seaweed company
- The United Nations
- A food charity
- The United States government

4) Seaweed has so many uses. Find three.

- 1: \_\_\_\_\_
- 2: \_\_\_\_\_
- 3: \_\_\_\_\_

5) Seaweed is a popular food in Japan.

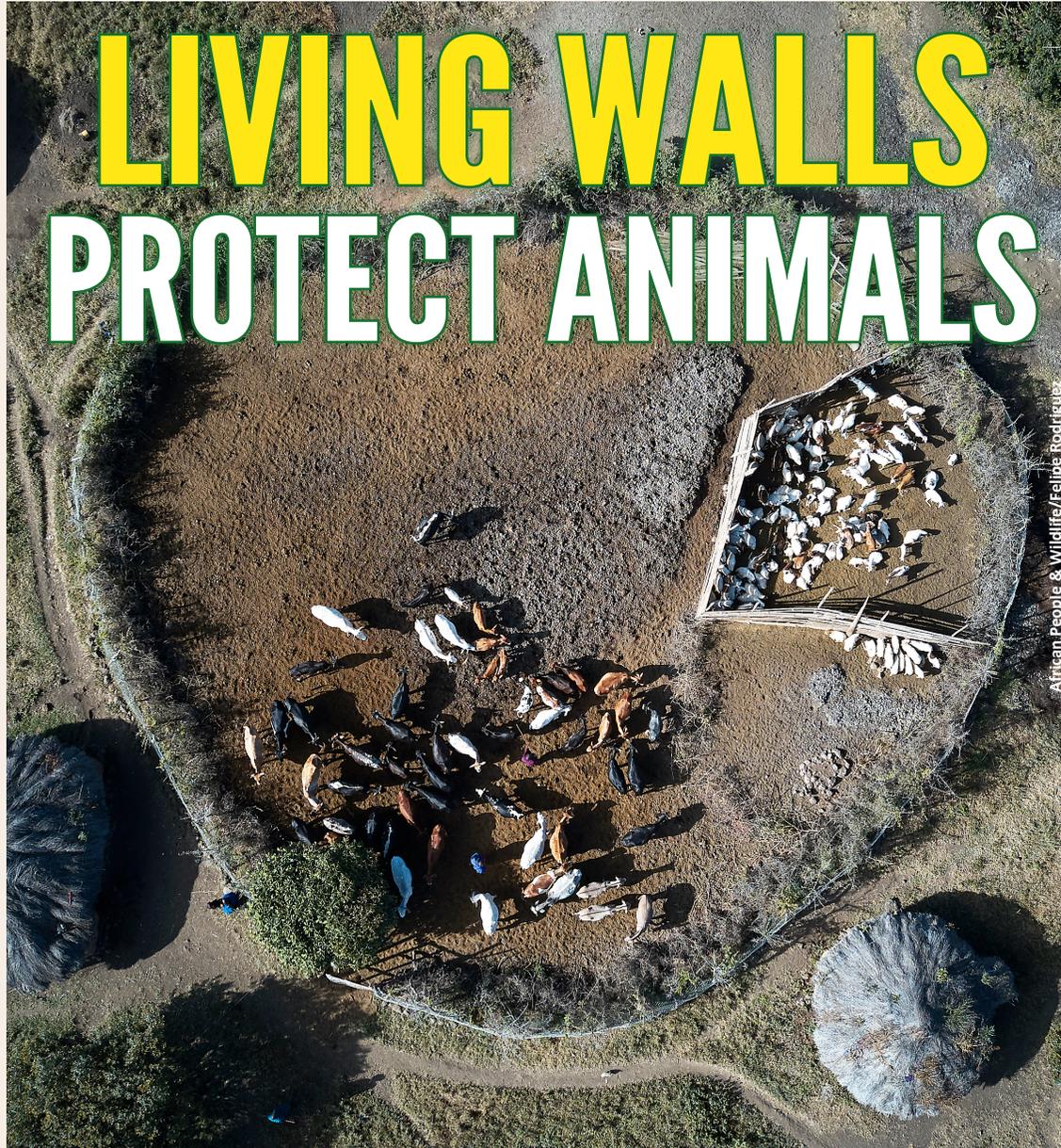
Find a sentence that gives evidence for this statement.

6) Why is seaweed also helpful while it is growing?

7) Which word has a similar meaning to 'seaweed'?

8) The United Nations helps countries to work together to solve problems. Why do you think it is so interested in seaweed?

## BIG NEWS

**THE Maasai people of Tanzania are building ‘living walls’ to protect their livestock from lions.**

Trying to farm animals when you live close to lions is a risky business. Raphael Leemai Siria, a Maasai herdsman, has lost hundreds of livestock over the years to wild predators.

With the help of a group called African People & Wildlife (a partner of the WWF), Raphael now has an ingenious solution to his problem – a living wall!

The walls, also known as corrals, are made from thorny African myrrh trees. The trees are planted in a circle. Builders then place a fence down around the trees, and fasten it to the branches. Over time, the trees grow and weave into the fencing, making the living walls even tougher.

Not only do the walls protect the farm animals, they also protect the wild predators, as farmers often retaliate when their livestock are attacked. Wild animals end up being killed.

The WWF called the designs a “triple win for people, wildlife and the planet.

As well as protecting big cats [from people defending their animals], they benefit people by protecting livestock”. And planting trees “regenerates [improves] landscapes”.

Raphael says: “In the past, as many as 25% [one-quarter] of cattle were eaten by predators in an average year. I once lost 30 goats and sheep in a single attack.”

Now, thanks to the living walls, he doesn’t have to worry!

**GLOSSARY**

**WWF** – World Wide Fund for Nature

## Questions on: 'Living walls protect animals'

1) Find the names.

**The country:** \_\_\_\_\_

**The local people:** \_\_\_\_\_

**The tree that has been used:** \_\_\_\_\_

2) Why is farming difficult for Raphael?

3) Find a number fact that backs up your answer.

4) What is another word for these living walls?

5) Write down the three steps involved in making a living wall.

1: \_\_\_\_\_

2: \_\_\_\_\_

3: \_\_\_\_\_

6) Can you explain how the walls also protect the lions?

7) "Raphael now has an ingenious solution."  
What does ingenious mean?

- clever and inventive
- high-tech
- rare and unusual

8) Why do you think living walls might be better than solid, built walls? Include your own ideas and opinion.

## WORLD NEWS

## NEW ZEALAND

**● Bird of the Year**

It's a bit smelly, can't fly, hides during the daytime and is the world's heaviest parrot. Yes, the one and only kakapo has been chosen by New Zealanders as their Bird of the Year. This extremely rare parrot is also called the 'mighty moss chicken'.

There are only 213 kakapos left in the wild. One of the vote organisers explained that its main defence is to "imitate a shrub". This strategy used to work well, but it doesn't fool predators like rats and cats that have been introduced to New Zealand and have been a disaster for the bird.

## USA

**● Jenga hits the heights**

Jenga has been accepted into the National Toy Hall of Fame in New York, USA. It joins classic games like marbles, dominoes, chess and Monopoly. The list recognises games that have been popular and well-loved over a long time.

Jenga was created by the British game designer, Leslie Scott. She made up the game to keep her brother and sister amused when they were living in Africa. It has now sold 100 million sets around the world. The name is Swahili for 'to build'.

## ROMANIA

**● Fabulous fish find**

The race is on to save a prehistoric fish that is so rare it was thought to be extinct. Twelve asprete were discovered last month by Andrei Togor, a fish scientist. The fish are living in one small section of the Vâlsan river, in Romania. Asprete are said to be "living fossils" because they have survived, unchanged for 65 million years.

## Questions on: World News

1) Find the country.

Headline	Country
Fabulous fish find	
Jenga hits the heights	
Bird of the Year	

Look at the news from Romania.

2) Why is this fish called a 'living fossil'?

Look at the news from New Zealand.

3) What do you find out about this unusual bird? Match the options.

Can't

heaviest parrot

Hides

smelly

A bit

fly

World's

in the day

4) Why do you think the kakapo is also called a 'mighty moss chicken'?

5) Cats and rats have only been brought to New Zealand quite recently. Why do you think they find kakapos so easy to catch?

Look at the news from the USA.

6) What does the name 'Jenga' mean?

The name: \_\_\_\_\_

The language: \_\_\_\_\_

7) How does a game get accepted into the USA's Toy Hall of Fame? It must be:

1: \_\_\_\_\_

2: \_\_\_\_\_

8) Which toys or games would you include in a Hall of Fame? Do you think future generations will still be playing them?