

Name: _____ Class: _____ ()

Tuesday English News Report: Broadcast Date: 15th Nov, 2016

'World's saddest polar bear' exhibited in Chinese shopping centre

ANSWER KEY

More than 285,000 people have signed a **petition** calling for the closure of an aquarium in southern China that is home to an animal dubbed “the world’s saddest polar bear”.

The **lethargic** bear, whose name is Pizza, is on show at an “ocean theme park” located inside the Grandview shopping centre in the city of Guangzhou. The aquarium made international headlines after its opening in early January with one Hong Kong-based animal rights charity denouncing it as a “horrifying” animal prison.

The park’s management initially rejected claims that Pizza was being **mistreated**. “The polar bear in the aquarium is very happy,” Li Chengtang, its deputy manager, told the Guangzhou Daily newspaper.

However, amid **outrage** over the **dismal** conditions in which the animals were being forced to live, as tourists posed for selfies beside them, members of the Hong Kong-based charity Animals Asia were invited to visit the aquarium in April.

The activist group said the theme park’s management had been “genuinely shocked” by the international **outcry** and had sought advice on how to improve conditions.

Animals Asia said there was no indication the aquarium would be closed or its animals, which also include arctic wolves, beluga whales and walrus calves, rehoused.

However, writing last week, Dave Neale, the group’s animal welfare director, said the park’s directors had promised “a better life for its animals” as a result of pressure.

Neale said engagement had previously led to positive changes at a zoo in Hanoi where the charity convinced zoo keepers to unchain elephants, end animal “circuses” and provide better living conditions for bears and tigers.

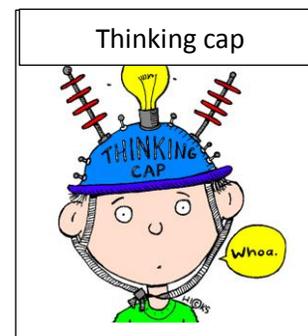
“Threatening **frequently** changes little – while walking away changes nothing. Staying and talking and working together means there’s an on-going chance for positive change,” Neale argued.

While China’s economic boom is **fading**, the country’s amusement park industry is booming as an increasingly **affluent** middle-class seeks new forms of entertainment. According to one campaigning group, China is currently home to at least 39 ocean theme parks. More than a dozen more are scheduled to open over the next two years.

Calls for the aquarium’s closure continued this week on Chinese social media. “It is torture! Please **boycott** it!” read one comment on Weibo, China’s Twitter.

Animals Asia said it would continue to fight to improve conditions in such attractions.

“The sad truth is, in this instance, we can’t immediately shut down Grandview. And they are unlikely to free this bear, or any of the other animals they house, at least not in the short-term,” Neale admitted, adding: “If our experience has taught us anything – first you open doors, then you open cages.”



1. Questions to think about:

- What do you think of holding wild animals in captivity in places such as zoos, theme parks etc?
 - What do you think of this story?
 - Do you visit places which hold animals for show? What is the possible problem or result when people do visit such places?
- One of the other problems is illegal trade in animals and their body parts.
 - Why do people do so? /Why should this be stopped?

2. I: Vocabulary and understanding meaning

Match the meaning and/or synonym (words with a similar or the same meaning) to the words which have been highlighted in bold in the article.

Column A: Word from text	Letter	Column B: Meaning or synonym
1. petition (n)	H	A: rich, well-off
2. lethargic (adj)	C	B: a strong expression of public disapproval/people not liking something
3. mistreat(ed) (v)	D	C: to have no energy/feel very lazy/ feel apathetic
4. outrage (n)	I	D: to be cruel or unfair in the way you look after something
5. dismal (adj)	G	E: to refuse to take part/participate, withdraw from something
6. outcry (n)	B	F: often
7. frequently (adv)	F	G: terrible
8. fade (v)	J	H: a written request asking for change signed by many people
9. affluent (adj)	A	I: anger, shock or horror at something
10. boycott (v)	E	J: disappear

II: Usage of vocabulary: Fill in the missing words of the short paragraphs or sentences below using the vocabulary (1-10) from column A. Make sure your answers are grammatically correct. Not all of the words will be needed.

When Disneyland in Hong Kong was about to open, they were planning to serve shark fin soup. However, as a result of public (a) **outcry/outrage**, in other words, with many people being angry and protesting against the plan, the idea was abandoned. Groups of children students got together and signed a (b) **petition** as part of the protest. People threatened to (c) **boycott** Disneyland saying they would not go if it did serve shark fin soup. For shark fin soup, the fishermen cut off the fins and throw the sharks back into the water alive. In other words, the sharks are (d) **mistreated**. It is really very cruel. Hopefully, this (e) **dismal** and awful practice will (f) **fade** and not be continued. Shark fin soup is (g) **frequently** served at weddings. Shark fin soup is expensive so usually it is only more (h) **affluent** people who can afford it.

Challenge of the week:

Come to the English Corner to watch a **Michael Jackson** video and song in which he calls out for everyone to look after the world's best asset: **NATURE**

