

'I was thrilled and shocked': images raise hopes of return of wild jaguars to the US

Level 1: Elementary

1 Warmer

a. Sort these animals between extinct or endangered. Which ones surprised you?

<i>extinct</i>	a plant or animal that doesn't exist anymore
<i>endangered</i>	a plant or animal that may become extinct before long

Arctic wolf blue whale dodo golden toad koala Tasmanian tiger

Extinct	Endangered

2 Key words

a. Choose the correct words to match the definitions below. Then find and highlight them in the article to read them in context.

- the usual weather in a particular place
a. section b. habitat c. climate
- the natural environment where a plant or animal lives
a. habitat b. border c. valley
- the line that divides two countries or areas or the land near this line
a. mountain b. section c. border
- a very high hill, often with rocks and snow at the top
a. climate b. mountain c. valley
- an area of low land between hills or mountains, often with a river running through it
a. valley b. energy c. danger

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6. the possibility of something happening that will injure, harm or kill someone, or damage or destroy something
 - a. danger
 - b. energy
 - c. endangered
7. an animal or plant at risk of no longer existing
 - a. smell
 - b. endangered
 - c. valley
8. the power and ability to be physically and mentally active
 - a. climate
 - b. section
 - c. energy
9. have a particular quality that others can notice with their noses
 - a. border
 - b. smell
 - c. section
10. one of the parts something is divided into
 - a. section
 - b. habitat
 - c. endangered

b. Complete the sentences with words from the previous activity. You might have to change the form of the word.

1. This _____ of the theatre is for people with wheelchairs.
2. Which is the tallest _____ in the world?
3. Sadly, there are many _____ animals that need protection.
4. Our bodies turn food into _____.
5. Mountains and deserts are two kinds of _____.

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Samuel Gilbert

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- 1 The young male was seen at about 4 am. He stopped briefly in front of the camera.
- 2 Emily Burns, the programme director at Sky Island Alliance (SIA) in Arizona, said that she was excited and surprised to see the jaguar.
- 3 Jaguars once lived in the American southwest but were killed in the 1960s. In the 1990s, cats were sometimes seen in New Mexico and Arizona. Over the past year, they have been seen many times.
- 4 But there are problems with helping the jaguars return to the US. The cat faces climate change, habitat loss – and the Trump administration's border wall.
- 5 In November 2023, SIA took a photo of a large jaguar walking along the Whetstone Mountains. It was the fifth recorded sighting in the US that year. In December, they captured a video of the same jaguar in the Huachuca Mountains.
- 6 The Whetstone and Huachuca Mountains are part of the Sky Islands in northern Mexico and the US southwest. There are many types of plants and animals, which make it a good habitat for jaguars.
- 7 Jaguars eat the pig-like javelina, which lives there, and there is water all year.
- 8 "If these mountains can support jaguar, it means it is a great habitat for so many other species as well," says Burns.
- 9 Louise Misztal, Executive Director at SIA, says that the Huachuca Mountains and the San Rafael Valley allow jaguars to move between the US and Mexico.
- 10 But that is in danger because of the border wall, which began under Donald Trump's presidency and continued under Biden's.
- 11 There are many endangered species, such as ocelots, wolves, pronghorns, and jaguars. These animals, and many others, have been negatively affected by the nearly 364 km-long wall.
- 12 This means that Jaguars must use more energy and travel longer distances to reach their habitat or to find food and water.
- 13 Krista Schlyer is a photographer and author who has worked for 15 years in the area. She has seen the problems created by the border wall, including dead or lost animals. In 2007, Schlyer noticed javelinas near the San Pedro River.
- 14 "They were smelling for their family on the other side," Schlyer says. They finally gave up and left. That wall section is now 70 miles long.
- 15 McSpadden says that it is very important to protect jaguars' habitat. Traphagen says the wall's construction could mean the end of jaguars in the US.

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3 Comprehension check

a. Answer the questions using information from the article.

1. Where is the Sky Island Alliance located?
2. When were wild jaguars killed?
3. When did the jaguars start to come back?
4. What are the three problems mentioned in the article?
5. When was the video of a jaguar in the Huachuca Mountains taken?
6. Where are the Whetstone and Huachuca Mountains?
7. What is one animal the jaguars eat, and what other animal does it look like?
8. What are some other endangered animals in the region?
9. Why is the border wall problematic for jaguars and other animals?
10. Who is Krista Schlyer?

4 Key language

a. Sort the words from the article.

briefly many nearly negatively same sometimes young

Adjectives	Adverbs

b. What other adjectives and adverbs can you find in the article?

Adjectives	Adverbs

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5 Discussion

a. Discuss these statements.

- "Humans are hurting animals' habitats."
- "Humans should protect animals and plants."
- "Most people care about protecting endangered animals and plants."

6 In your own words

a. Do some research about wild jaguars or another endangered species.

- Where does the animal live?
- Why is it endangered?
- Is the animal protected? How?
- What problems does it have?

b. Report your findings to the class and share your opinions. Here are some phrases to help you when you discuss facts.

The article/expert said ...

Based on the research, ...

One example is ...

One/Some way(s) to do this is/are ...

Here are some phrases to use when stating your opinion.

I think (that) ...

One idea is ...

In my understanding/opinion, ...

I (dis)agree with ...