

How creating wildlife crossings can help reindeer, bears – and even crabs

Level: Elementary

1 Warmer

Match the places with the correct countries.

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| 1. the Yucatán Peninsula | a. Canada |
| 2. the Santa Monica Mountains | b. Sweden |
| 3. the Banff National Park, Alberta | c. Mexico |
| 4. the South Downs National Park | d. Australia |
| 5. Christmas Island | e. the USA |
| 6. Umeå | f. the UK |

2 Key words

a. Fill the gaps in the sentences using these key words from the text.

habitat

jaguar

pipeline

traffic jam

underpass

1. A/An _____ is a line of cars and lorries waiting because they cannot move.
2. A/An _____ is a path that goes under a road.
3. A/An _____ is the place where a group of animals usually live.
4. A/An _____ is a large wild cat.
5. A/An _____ is a large, long tube carrying water or gas from one place to another.

bison

collision

controversial

rare

trust

6. A/An _____ is an accident in which a vehicle hits something.
7. A wildlife _____ is an organization that manages a nature reserve.
8. If something is _____, many people do not agree with it.
9. If an animal is _____, people do not see it very often.
10. A/An _____ is a large wild animal like a cow with long hair and a big head.

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- 1 Every April, hundreds of reindeer block an important road near Umeå in Sweden during their journey west to the mountains. The crossings are often dangerous. Cars sometimes frighten the animals and cause long traffic jams.
- 2 Now Sweden is planning to build special reindeer bridges. This will allow the reindeer to cross more easily. They hope the crossings will also help other animals to move around.
- 3 Different countries around the world are building wildlife bridges and underpasses to connect animal habitats. On the Yucatán peninsula in Mexico, underpasses protect jaguars from traffic. Natural bridges in Peru help animals pass over natural gas pipelines. On Christmas Island, bridges allow millions of red crabs to pass from the forest to the beaches.
- 4 In California, the busy highways around Los Angeles have stopped lions in the Santa Monica Mountains moving around. To help protect the mountain lion population, authorities are planning a \$87m wildlife bridge over the 101 highway. The bridge will be the largest in the world.
- 5 Parks Canada manages one of the most successful uses of wildlife bridges in the world in Banff national park, Alberta. They have built seven overpasses and 41 underpasses. Fewer animals have died along the highway and fewer people have died in collisions with animals.
- 6 In the UK, Highways England is building wildlife bridges around the country, and is planning more in the future. But some conservationists say the UK is not doing not enough. "We're a long way behind the rest of the world. In some parts of Europe, it's normal," says wildlife trust director Martin de Retuerto.
- 7 The trust wants to build a green bridge across the M3 motorway at Twyford Down. The motorway was built in the 1990s and is one of the most controversial roads in English history. The motorway cut the link between the South Downs national park and a nature reserve home to rare butterflies and wildflowers.
- 8 De Retuerto thinks a green bridge could help . "If Romania can build green bridges for bison, we can build them for butterflies."

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3 Comprehension check

Answer the questions using information from the article.

1. When do reindeer block an important road in Sweden? _____
2. Where do underpasses protect jaguars from traffic? _____
3. What kind of animals cross bridges on Christmas Island to get to the beach? _____
4. Where will the largest wildlife bridge in the world be? _____
5. How many wildlife overpasses has Parks Canada built? _____
6. How many underpasses has it built? _____
7. Which motorway is one of the most controversial roads in England? _____
8. Which country has built green bridges for bison? _____

4 Using key language

Match the words from the left-hand column to the words in the right-hand column to make expressions from the text.

- | | |
|-------------|-------------|
| 1. traffic | a. bridge |
| 2. national | b. habitat |
| 3. nature | c. jam |
| 4. wildlife | d. pipeline |
| 5. animal | e. reserve |
| 6. gas | f. park |

5 Discussion

- Why are animal crossings important?
- Which are the most interesting wild animals in your country?
- Why are national parks important?

6 In your own words

Use the internet to find information about rare animals and national parks in your country. Then complete the sentences in your own words.

The rarest animals in my country are . . .
The biggest national parks in my country are . . .
We should have a wildlife crossing in . . . because . . .