

The saiga and the mountain gorilla

Two conservation success stories

Some scientists say that one species becomes extinct every seven minutes.

What can we do to stop this from happening? Let's meet two endangered animals and find out.

A (...)

The saiga has got brown or grey fur, horns and a very strange long nose. It lives in groups in the **deserts** of south-east Europe and central Asia. They can travel up to 1,000 km between summer and winter. In the 1990s there were more than a million saigas, but by the year 2000 the population was less than 50,000.

B (...)

The mountain gorilla is a large mammal. It lives in national parks in two regions of Africa. It's got black fur and is very intelligent. In 1960 there were about 500 gorillas in the Virunga mountains, but by the 1970s the **population** was about 200.

C (...)

The saiga and the gorilla were both at risk of extinction. The reduction in **habitat** was a big problem: there wasn't enough open space for the saiga and there was less forest for the gorilla. **Hunting** was also a serious problem. Some people kill gorillas or sell them. There weren't any **laws** to stop this until 2008. Other people kill saigas for their horns.

fun facts

Mountain gorillas can weigh 180 kg.



Logo of G4G, a mountain gorilla charity organisation

D (...)

Animal conservation organisations, like WWF, and governments were very worried and there was a big **campaign** to help the saiga and the gorilla, with more money to protect their habitats and new laws to stop hunting. There were special exhibitions and there was even a saiga stamp!

E (...)

The saiga and mountain gorilla are still in danger but the populations are slowly growing. And the saiga and the gorilla are not the only success stories: a similar programme is also helping the giant panda. Extinction of plants and animals is still a very serious problem, but with success stories like these, we can see that change is possible.



Saiga postage stamp from Mongolia



Meet Jenk, the founder of iCoolKid

Jenk Oz is a tech entrepreneur. He's met a lot of celebrities, including Adele. He's appeared in documentaries and music videos, and he's acted in a play in a London theatre. The amazing thing is, he's still a teenager!

Jenk's company, a digital platform called iCoolKid, is a guide to all things cool to see and do. It's designed for eight- to 15-year-olds, and **focuses on** pop culture, tech and **events**. It has stories on everything from baking a cake with a 3D printer to doing a bungee jump on skis. You can even sing karaoke there. Jenk describes it as a place for young people to hang out and never get bored.

'It's a place where young people can hang out and never get bored.'

The idea for the site came to Jenk when he was eight. Every Monday morning, his teacher asked about their weekend. He realised that he always did different things from his classmates. They sometimes saw a football or rugby match, but he went to musicals or other different events. His friends started to ask, 'Can I come with you?' Jenk's mother decided to send them an email every week with ideas about what to do. Jenk presented the email as a school project, and the website grew from there.



Jenk's own hobbies are a big part of his **research**. In his free time, he records music and takes dance classes. He sings and plays four musical instruments well. He loves **extreme sports**; he's been go-karting and sky-diving. He's a big fan of fashion too.

Jenk hasn't written all the stories on his site. He has a team who help him, but he decides what's cool. And he's got big plans for the future. iCoolKid has between 1,000 and 2,000 **hits** a day, and he wants to increase that to a million. He also plans to **go global** and write articles for people around the world.

Why not check out iCoolKid.com and find out about events near you?



How to spot fake news

If you see an interesting story online, can you trust it? Ask yourself these questions ...

What's the source? Is this a reliable media organisation or the site of an individual blogger? Is there an 'About Us' section where you can find contact information?

What's the whole story? Headlines are often shocking to attract the reader's attention. Can you find the same story on other websites or in print media?

What can the photos tell us? Fake news stories often use recycled or **manipulated images**. What is the source of the photo?

Who's the journalist? Can you find the name of the reporter? If it's an interview, is the interviewee a real person?

Are there lots of ads? Fake news sites are often packed with annoying **pop-up ads**. Most reliable news sites limit their adverts.

The screenshot shows a news article on the website New4You.com.co. The URL is highlighted in the browser's address bar. Below the address bar is a navigation bar with tabs for 'Latest news', 'International', and 'Entertainment news'. A large photograph of a mountain range is featured at the top of the article. The headline reads 'FRESH MOUNTAIN AIR IMPROVES EXAM RESULTS!'. Below the headline are social media sharing icons. The main text of the article discusses 'Fresh Mountain Air' and its benefits for exam results. At the bottom of the article, there is a 'Read more' button and a view count of '15 million views'. A pop-up advertisement is overlaid on the bottom right of the page, featuring a bottle of 'Fresh Mountain Air' and a 'Limited offer - today only!' with a 'BUY NOW - ONLY \$19.98' button.