

Civic Minds

Date: Friday, May 6, 2016

E-Edition Date: Sunday, May 1, 2016

Article Title: Kenya's huge ivory fire sends message to support trade ban

Section: Main, A12

Vocabulary:

Look up the definition of **pyre**. Please write the definition and create a new sentence, using your own words.

"The **pyres** were fueled with about 20,000 liters of jet fuel and oxygen, said Robin Hollister, the event's fire master. Hollister didn't know how long the fires would burn."

Comprehension Questions

1. NAIROBI, Kenya — As planned, Kenya's president set fire Saturday to _____ tons of elephant ivory and _____ tons of rhino horn, believed to be the largest stockpile ever destroyed.
2. This political and ethical statement by the East African country was made against what practices?
3. President Uhuru Kenyatta put a flame to the biggest of 11 pyres of ivory tusks and one of rhino horn while hundreds watched. Where did the fires take place?
4. The stacks of tusks represent more than _____ elephants and some _____ rhinos slaughtered for their ivory and horns, according to the Kenya Wildlife Service.
5. What will Kenya push for at the 17th meeting of the Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species this year?
6. The pyres were fueled with about _____ liters of jet fuel and oxygen, said Robin Hollister, the event's fire master.
7. Kenya Wildlife Service chairman and renowned paleoanthropologist and conservationist Richard Leakey said the burning of the ivory should encourage African countries to support what?
8. Africa had 1.3 million elephants in the 1970s but has only _____ today.
9. The situation is worse for rhinoceroses. Since 1960, almost _____ percent of the continent's black rhinoceroses have been killed.

Class Discussion Questions and Essay Prompts:

The stacks of tusks represent more than 8,000 elephants and some 343 rhinos slaughtered for their ivory and horns, according to the Kenya Wildlife Service.

- Take a moment to really think about those numbers.
- How does it make you feel?
- Have you thought about this issue in depth before? Why or why not?

Kenya decided to destroy the ivory instead of selling it for an estimated \$150 million. Some critics had suggested the money raised from the ivory sales could be used to develop Kenya and protect wildlife. But Kenyatta said Kenya wants to make the point that ivory should not have any commercial value.

- Do you agree or disagree with Kenya's decision to destroy the ivory instead of selling it for a large profit?

"We will burn ivory and we hope every country in the globe will support Kenya and say never again should we trade ivory," Leakey said.

- What is current U.S. legislation on bringing items like this into the U.S.?
- Should it be completely banned? Why or why not?
- What states still allow it, if any?

Essay

President Uhuru Kenyatta put a flame to the biggest of 11 pyres of ivory tusks and one of rhino horn while hundreds watched at Nairobi National Park. "A time has come when we must take a stand and the stand is clear... Kenya is making a statement that for us ivory is worthless unless it is on our elephants," he said.

- How do you feel about the trade in ivory and products from endangered species?
- Did you know it was such a large international problem?
- Do you know anyone that purchased any items like these? If you do, why do you think they bought them? Do they display them in their homes?
- How do you feel about Kenya's stance on this issue?
- Why is it important that these practices stop?
- What happens if it doesn't?

Newspaper-related CBA activity: U.S. Policy

How the United States government interacts with the world affects people across the globe. Analyze and evaluate the causes and effects of US foreign policy on people in the United States and across the world.

- Using The Seattle Times e-edition, find an article from this week that deals with world politics or foreign policy.
- What are the main points of view from someone living in that particular country? How is that "view" similar and different than your own opinion, regarding the specific issue the article is discussing?
- Why is it important to study and learn about foreign policy? How does it help you understand the world we live in, using current issues and events?

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