

NEWS BREAK

Article: **China's wandering elephants on the move toward southwest**

Section: **MAIN, A9**

Sunday's News Break selects an article from **Sunday, June 13, 2021** of The Seattle Times print replica for an in-depth reading of the news. Read the selected article and answer the attached study questions.

You are encouraged to modify this lesson to fit the needs of your students. For example, some teachers might use this as a take-home assignment and others might read and answer the questions in a small group or larger, class discussion.

****Please be sure to preview all NIE content before using it in your classroom to ensure it is appropriate for your students.***

Standards:

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.1

- Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.2

- Determine the main idea of a text and explain how it is supported by key details; summarize the text.

Objectives:

Students will access their prior knowledge about elephant behavior and lifestyle. They will discuss why they think China has allowed this herd to roam freely, why they embarked on this journey and why they think the lone male is 10 miles away from its herd? Students will brainstorm 3 ideas for keeping these wild animals safe?

Pre-Reading Discussion:



- What do you think the article will be about, using only this picture?
- Are there any clues?
- What can you infer?

Vocabulary Building:

Read this sentence, what do you think the highlighted words mean using *context clues*? A **context clue** is a word or words that are hints and refers to the sources of information outside of words that readers may use to predict the identities and meanings of unknown words.

“The lone male was 10 miles away, still on the **outskirts** of Kunming.”

Outskirts Guess:

Outskirts Definition:

Comprehension Questions:

1. China’s famed wandering elephants are on the move again, heading _____ while a male that broke from the herd is keeping his distance.
2. The group left a wildlife reserve in the southwest of Yunnan province more than a year ago and has trekked _____ miles north to the outskirts of the provincial capital of Kunming.
3. The lone male was _____ miles away, still on the outskirts of Kunming.
4. The direction of the animals’ travel could be a good sign. Why?
5. Authorities have been attempting to keep a distance between them and local residents, while blocking roads into villages and seeking to lure the elephants away with what?

6. Despite that, the herd of _____ has raided farms, strolled down urban streets and foraged for snacks in villages and even a retirement home.
7. All of the animals are reported to be healthy, and no person has been injured in encounters with them. Officials have issued strict orders not to do what?
8. China's roughly 300 wild elephants enjoy the highest level of what?
9. Some _____ tons of food were laid out for the animals Friday.
10. It remains unclear why the elephants embarked on their trek, although Evan Sun, wildlife campaign manager with World Animal Protection, said possible reasons could include what three factors?

Discussion Questions (small/large groups), Journal Prompts or Essay Questions:

- ***What surprised (or stood out to) you in the article?***
- ***At first I thought _____, but now I think _____?***
- ***What things did you already know from prior experience?***
- ***What do you know about elephant behavior and lifestyle?***
- ***Why do you think China has allowed them to roam freely?***
- ***Why do you think the elephants embarked on their trek?***
- ***Why do you think the lone male is 10 miles away from the rest of the herd?***

“The increase of human elephant conflicts reflects the urgency for a more strategic policy and plan to protect these endangered wild animals and their natural habitats,” Sun wrote in an email. “This also poses a great opportunity to educate the public about the challenges that wild animals face for survival and the need for better protection from a government, industry and society level,” Sun wrote. “These animals belong in the wild. We need to keep a safe distance from them, which is good for us and the wild animals.”

- **Brainstorm (3) ideas for keeping these wild animals safe?**

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