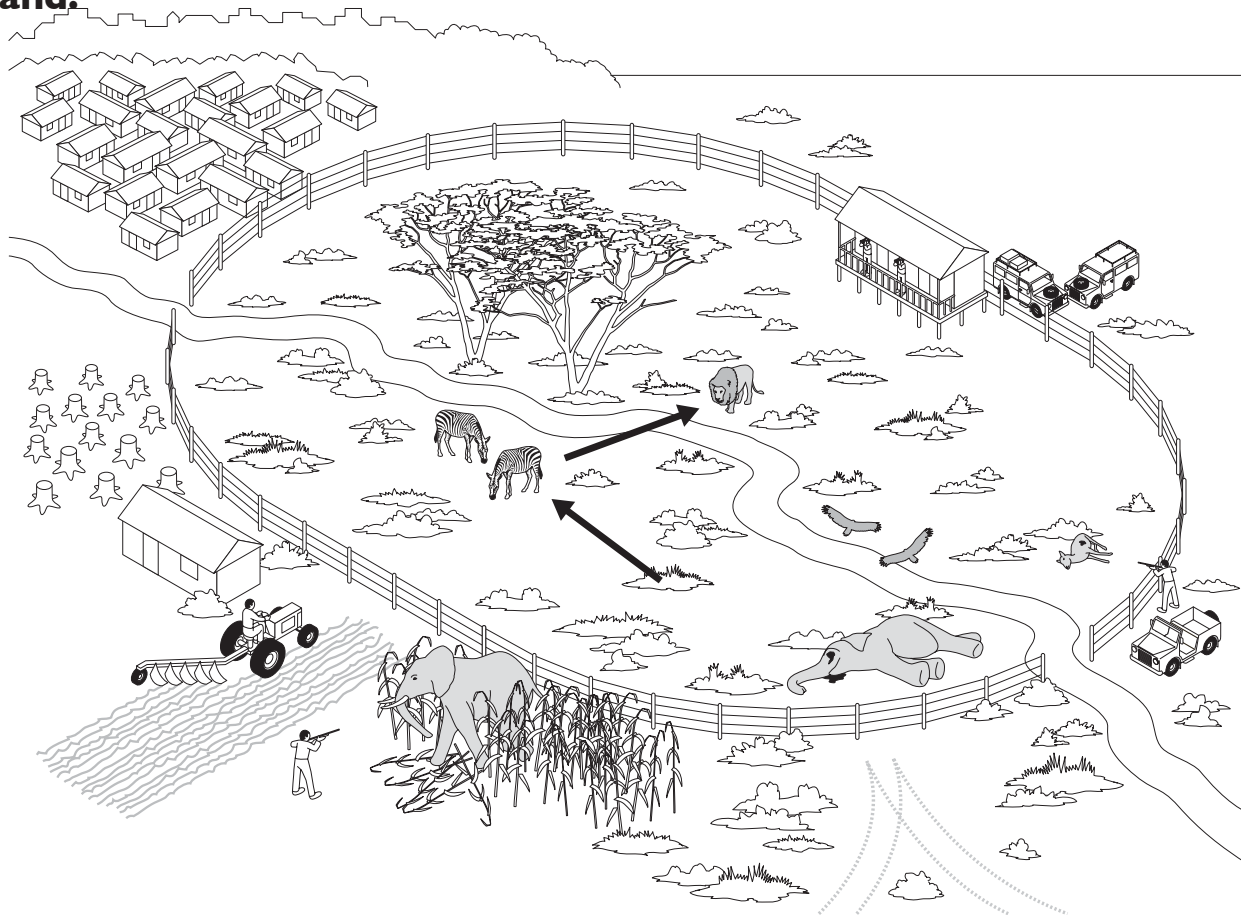


The many threats to all animals

Wild animals are threatened as people use up more and more land.



Q1. The arrows show what is eaten by what (this is called a food chain). The arrows point to grass, a lion and a zebra. Write these in order of what eats what.



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Q2. Why is there a fence around the game park?



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Q3. Why is it easier to have a game park in Africa than in the UK?



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Answers

- 1. Grass is eaten by zebras which are eaten by lions.**
- 2. To keep people and game apart. Without it, people might start to farm the game reserve and large animals like lions might eat farm animals.**
- 3. In order to have a viable game park, there has to be sufficient space for the top carnivores to breed successfully. Top carnivores need a very large territory and this is generally not available in the UK. It should be pointed out to students that safari parks are not game parks, because they do not provide an environment in which animals can find their own food or breed in an unrestricted way.**

Notes

You may wish to make more of this diagram, perhaps by beginning with a diagram of a sample food chain (examples can be found in the book *Living Things in their Environment* in the *Curriculum Visions* series).

Students can then notice how real food chains also contain decomposers. For example, in Africa, vultures often begin the process of dealing with dead animals.

You may also care to consider each aspect of the threat to animals separately. You can consider:

- Encroachment on wilderness due to farming.
- The fact that some animals trample fields and so get shot.
- The hunting of animals for ivory, fur and so on.
- The loss of suitable habitat as a result of cutting down forests.
- The encroachment of urban areas.

Students may be able to think up more.