

## Plan to return the wolf to Scotland

18th July, 2015



A group of green charities called Rewilding Britain wants to return a large area of Scotland to how it was a thousand years ago. The group wants forests and lost

animals, birds and fish to return. One of the animals the group aims to put back into the wild is the wolf. This died out in Britain in 1680 after hunters and farmers killed them all. Other species that could return to Scottish mountains, rivers and seas include the lynx (a wild cat), beavers, bison, sea eagles, bluefin tuna and grey whales. The charities want the government to return one-twentieth of the country to its natural state. The area it wants is the United Kingdom's cleanest region. It hopes much of this can happen by the year 2030.

Not everyone thinks the reintroduction of animals like the wolf and lynx is a good idea. Farmers are worried it would cause them many problems. A farmer's group said it was a crazy idea to bring back predators to the country because they would start killing farm animals. They also say that dams built by beavers would increase the risk of flooding farmland, while sea eagles kill lambs. Rewilding Britain spokeswoman Rebecca Wrigley said: "Rewilding is really for everyone who cares about our future." She added: "Our ecosystems need us." Ms Wrigley said it was important to re-wild Britain for, "native forests to regenerate" and to give "the seas a chance to recover from industrial fishing".

Sources: *HeraldScotland / Independent / Scotsman.com*

## Writing

We should return the countryside to as it was 1,000 years ago. Discuss.

## Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

*green / charities / forests / the wild / hunters / mountains / whales / natural / 2030 / animals / problems / predators / flooding / farmland / our future / ecosystems / fishing*

## True / False

- a) A green charity wants the whole of Scotland to return to the wild. T / F
- b) The last wolf in Scotland died in 1860. T / F
- c) The charity wants to see the return of whales to Scottish seas. T / F
- d) The charity wants to see a lot of its wishes in place by 2030. T / F
- e) Farmers are very happy about a possible return to the wild. T / F
- f) Beavers are a potential danger to farms. T / F
- g) A charity spokeswoman said our ecosystems needed us. T / F
- h) The charity said seas have recovered from industrial fishing. T / F

## Synonym Match

- |             |                   |
|-------------|-------------------|
| 1. return   | a. such as        |
| 2. aims     | b. condition      |
| 3. died out | c. is concerned   |
| 4. state    | d. plans          |
| 5. region   | e. heighten       |
| 6. like     | f. area           |
| 7. worried  | g. restore        |
| 8. increase | h. opportunity    |
| 9. cares    | i. concerned      |
| 10. chance  | j. became extinct |

## Discussion – Student A

- a) How much of your country is still wild?
- b) Do you like the wild areas of your country?
- c) Have any wild animals in your country disappeared?
- d) Should all countries start letting large areas go wild again?
- e) Is it important for wild animals to be free in the countryside?
- f) What do you think of the idea of bringing back native animals?
- g) Do you prefer towns and cities or the countryside?
- h) What do you think of the idea of re-wilding?

## Phrase Match

- |                                     |                             |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. a large                          | a. forests                  |
| 2. This died                        | b. twentieth of the country |
| 3. Other species                    | c. us                       |
| 4. return one-                      | d. area of Scotland         |
| 5. It hopes much of this can happen | e. that could return        |
| 6. it was a crazy idea to bring     | f. from industrial fishing  |
| 7. increase the risk of flooding    | g. out in Britain in 1680   |
| 8. Our ecosystems need              | h. farmland                 |
| 9. native                           | i. by the year 2030         |
| 10. a chance to recover             | j. back predators           |

## Discussion – Student B

- What problems might there be for farmers?
- The animals are no longer there because people killed them all. How bad is that?
- How would you like to change the countryside of your country?
- How important is re-wilding for the future?
- What will the world be like if we keep destroying nature?
- Should we stop building towns in the countryside?
- What advice do you have for farmers who don't like this idea?
- What questions would you like to ask the charity?

## Spelling

- A group of green isercitha
- how it was a ntoadush years ago
- Other scepsai that could return
- soitmunan, rivers and seas
- one-nhittteew of the country
- the United Kingdom's cleanest rongei
- Farmers are oriedwr
- bring back dtpaorser
- the risk of ilngdofo farmland
- Our sytsecmeo need us
- atinve forests
- cerrevo from industrial fishing

### Answers – Synonym Match

|      |      |      |      |       |
|------|------|------|------|-------|
| 1. g | 2. d | 3. j | 4. b | 5. f  |
| 6. a | 7. i | 8. e | 9. c | 10. h |

## Role Play

### Role A – Global warming

You think global warming is the biggest problem for farmers. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so bad. Also, tell the others which is the least problematic of these (and why): pests, taxes or water.

### Role B – Pests

You think pests are the biggest problem for farmers. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so bad. Also, tell the others which is the least problematic of these (and why): global warming, taxes or water.

### Role C – Taxes

You think taxes are the biggest problem for farmers. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so bad. Also, tell the others which is the least problematic of these (and why): pests, global warming or water.

### Role D – Water

You think water is the biggest problem for farmers. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so bad. Also, tell the others which is the least problematic of these (and why): pests, taxes or global warming.

## Speaking – Farmers

Rank these with your partner. Put the biggest problems for farmers at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- global warming
- overseas competition
- pests
- price of land
- wild animals
- water
- taxes
- government rules

### Answers – True False

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| a | F | b | F | c | T | d | T | e | F | f | T | g | T | h | F |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|

Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.