



Vicious vocabulary

CAPS Statement

Writing&Presenting

Writes a book review

- Uses a dictionary for spelling and vocabulary development



Read the following newspaper article and complete the activities that follow.

African Lions in trouble

29th October 2014

By Rishi Iyengar for TIME

The world's most **iconic** cat is in trouble. On Monday, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) asked for African lions to be listed as "threatened" under the **Endangered** Species Act. This move would help protect them from **extinction**. The African lion population, in 1980, was **predicted** to be 75,800, according to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). That number has dropped by 30%. The Fish and Wildlife service adds that about 70% of all lion populations inhabit just 10 areas in eastern and southern Africa. "Unless things improve, lions will face extinction," said Daniel Ashe, the director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

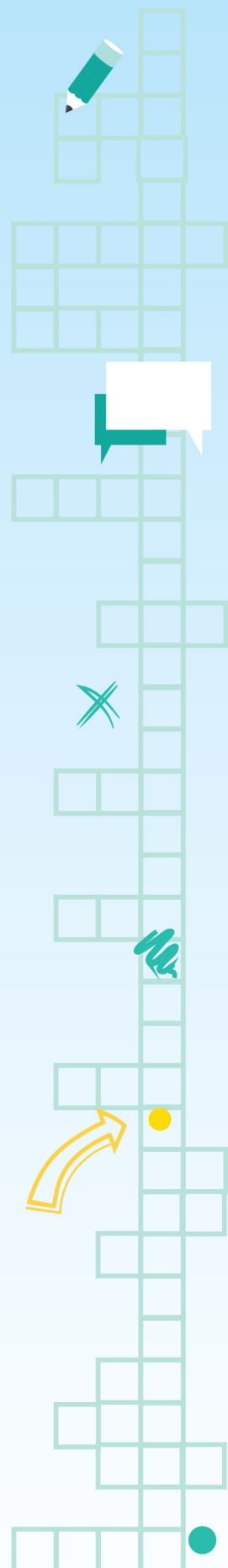
Homes at Risk

A statement from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service listed the main threats to the big cats as loss of **habitat**, lack of **prey**, and more conflicts with humans. Over time, more humans have moved into areas inhabited by lions. Experts believe human population in sub-Saharan Africa will double by 2050, making the problem worse.

How the Title Would Help

By listing the species as endangered, the USFWS said it could help lions. The service could make some activities **illegal**, including the buying and selling of hunted lions as trophies. This, it said, would ensure "that people in the United States do not contribute to the further decline of listed **species**. Fish and Wildlife Service director Daniel Ashe said the agency wants to protect the endangered animals as much as possible. "It is up to all of us, not just the people of Africa, to ensure that healthy, wild populations continue to **roam** the savannah for generations to come," he said. Wildlife expert Jane Goodall called the suggested listing "excellent news." She says people were not aware of the **decline** because they see the animals in parks. "I hope that the proposed listing will be approved," Goodall told the Washington Post. "How terrible to lose the 'king of beasts' from the African scene.

Adapted by Nicola Routledge from an article by Time for Kids News





Activity 1

The words in red are unfamiliar words. Re-read the newspaper article above and fill in the table below.

- Write what you think the word means in the first column
- Check and write the dictionary definition in the next column



The first one has been done for you!

Word	I think it means	Dictionary definition
iconic	A status symbol	A person or thing that people feel is a symbol of something
endangered		
extinction		
predicted		
habitat		
prey		
illegal		
species		
roam		
decline		



Activity 2

Can you use the words in the table on the previous page in a sentence to show you understand the meaning?

Example

Word: **iconic**

Sentence: Nelson Mandela was an **iconic** symbol of freedom

① decline:

② roam:

③ species:

④ illegal:

⑤ prey:

Teacher Tip

The answers to the definitions in Activity 2 may differ slightly depending on the dictionary the school stocks or requests. Teachers must check this prior to starting the activity.

Go through the dictionary with the learners prior to starting the written work. Let them put their finger on features such as guidewords. Remind them that words are arranged in alphabetical order.

