

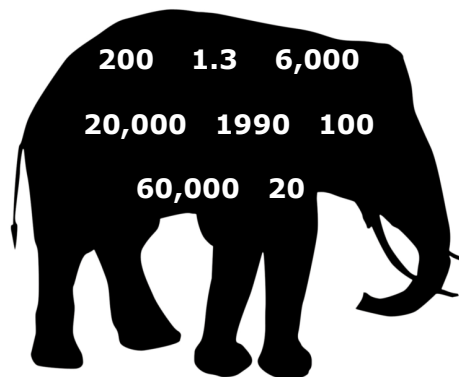
EXERCISE 1

Match the adjectives to the nouns:

Adjectives		Nouns
1. ivory	●	● elephants
2. African	●	● problem
3. game	●	● groups
4. tourist	●	● trade
5. global	●	● mapping
6. DNA	●	● reserves
7. conservation	●	● rate
8. organised	●	● industry
9. death	●	● act
10. grisly	●	● crime

EXERCISE 2

Fill in the blanks with the correct numbers:



- Between 1979 and 1989, poachers effectively wiped half of Africa's 1.3 million elephants off the map.
- The ban on trade in ivory in 1990 has helped slow the slaughter but it has not stopped it.
- Poachers account for somewhere between 20,000 to 60,000 elephant deaths a year.
- In 2004, a kilogramme of ivory was worth as much as \$ 200.
- Five years later, the price is 30 times higher at almost \$ 6,000.
- In 2010, poachers are likely to eliminate 20% of Africa's remaining elephant population.
- DNA mapping provides a nearly 100% accurate way of proving if ivory comes from a legitimate or illegal source.

Elephant photo © mzacha / sxc.hu

GROUP ACTIVITY

Did you know there is a replacement for ivory called **tagua**? It is better known as 'vegetable ivory'. It is a hard nut that comes from the fruit of a tagua palm, or more commonly known as 'ivory-nut palm'. Find out where tagua is grown and how versatile it is.

- Tagua palm is found in the tropical rainforests of South America - Ecuador, Peru, Columbia and Brazil.
- The tagua nuts grow in large armoured clusters with each cluster containing many nuts. When the palm fruit is ripe, it drops to the ground.
- The fruit has an outer covering called 'pericarp', which is often removed by the forest animals.
- The kernel or seed is covered with a brown, flaky skin and range in size from a small olive, walnut (average size) to an orange (4-8cm in diameter).
- Because of its small size, tagua is limited in its use.
- When the seed is dried (four to eight weeks), it can be carved for making beads, buttons, figurines, dice, chess pieces, cane handles and jewellery. It can also be dyed.
- Tagua was used long before the invention of plastics, especially in making buttons.
- The tagua nuts are harvested by hand without harming or cutting down the trees. It is a sustainable crop that provides income for the forest people. It is environmentally friendly and helps preserve the tropical rainforests. At the same time, it protects the endangered animals such as elephants, whales and walrus as a source of animal ivory.
- Tagua nuts are also food for forest animals such as squirrels, pacas and agoutis.





Carving tagua © Artessano / flickr.com



Tagua locket © Meryl/Wiki



Tagua figurines © EKEM / Wikipedia



Frog tagua pendant © brian.gratwicke / flickr.com