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Dhofar Desert

The Disappearing Arabian Leopard

Dhofar Desert- The Disappearing Arabian Leopard

Hi!
I am Tara

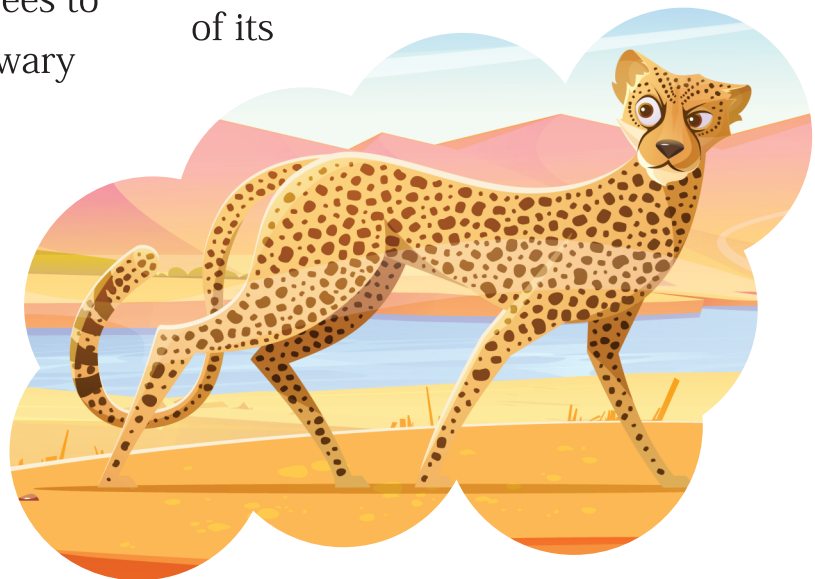


the Arabian leopard, emitting a shrill call to alert others of danger.



Tara was fascinated by the ibex, with their impressive 1-meter-long, curved horns that bend up and then backwards and down. To see them in their natural habitat in the Arabian Peninsula, she knew she would have to travel to Oman. The ibex were intelligent and able to climb bare rocks with ease, even venturing into trees to forage for food. They were also wary of predators, particularly

Sadly, both the ibex and the Arabian leopard were facing major threats. The ibex population was threatened by competition with livestock for water and fodder, hunting pressure, pollution, and habitat destruction. If the ibex disappeared, so would the leopard. The magnificent Arabian leopard was one of the rarest of its



species, with fewer than 200 adults remaining in the wild. Dhofar was home to around 50 of these adults, making it a critical area for their survival. The leopard population was further impacted by the decrease of natural prey species like the ibex, leading to increased predation on livestock. This has caused local people to view the leopards as a threat and kill them using poison or snares. Other reasons for killing the leopards included using their hides for clothing or for black magic.

Tara was saddened by the plight of these unique animals, each supporting

the ecosystem in its own way. She hoped that somewhere, there was a hero working to save them and the Dhofar desert from the threats of habitat loss and illegal hunting.



New Words

1. **Predators-** An animal that kills and eats another animal.

2. **Shrill-** High and unpleasant.

3. **Extinction-** The state of no longer existing.

Find other new and interesting words for each other, and write their meanings in your notebooks.

Comprehension

1. What is the ibex?
2. Why do ibex forage for food in places close to cliffs?
3. Which animal preys on the ibex?
4. How do ibex alert others about danger?
5. What factors threaten the existence of the ibex population?
6. Why are locals killing the Arabian leopard?
7. What are the other reasons for killing leopards?

Take turns to make more questions like these above for each other and answer them.

Prompts Pair up

Wildlife Conservation Presentation

1. Research the Arabian leopard, the ibex, and their unique ecosystem in the Dhofar desert. Explore the threats they face, such as habitat destruction, illegal hunting, and climate change. Prepare a presentation to share with your class, outlining the importance of these species, their role in the ecosystem, and the challenges they face. Discuss potential solutions or conservation efforts that can help protect these animals and their habitats.
2. Role-play as a farmer with livestock

threatened by Arabian leopards and a conservationist trying to protect them. Discuss challenges and collaborate on solutions that benefit both people and wildlife. Share your scenario with the class, highlighting the need to balance human interests and conservation efforts.

Watch the video on the Dhofar desert using the QR code.



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10 Station Road, Lucknow 226001, UP, INDIA