



THE WILDEBEEEST AND CLIMATE CHANGE



Climate Heroes

The Wildebeest and Climate Change

Hi!
I am Tara

The headlines from Sky News scream, "Hundreds of thousands of wildebeest from the Serengeti in Tanzania to Kenya's Maasai Mara game reserve are under threat from climate change."



Tara had made the decision to visit the Kenya Game Reserve, as she had always been fascinated by the continent of Africa. Her interest had been piqued by the wildebeest, an antelope that belonged to the cattle family, and was also known as gnu. Every year, the



wildebeest crossed into Mara in Kenya to graze on the green pastures. However, due to climate change, the rains were failing to come, and

the dry pastures had stopped attracting the herds from Tanzania.

Tara was concerned about where these grazing animals would go for food.





She read on to the next paragraph, which highlighted that the predators who relied on wildebeest, such as hyenas, lions, leopards, and cheetahs, would be at risk of starvation. The lack of rain had also affected the Mara River, which the wildebeest crossed to reach the game reserve. The water level was so low that hippos couldn't submerge themselves completely in water to cool off.

Tara realized that the wildebeest's movement beyond the game reserve's boundaries in search of green pastures could lead to a direct conflict with humans. This was a cause for concern, as such a conflict could have disastrous consequences. With a worried expression on her face, she turned to study an illustration of the game reserve, which featured various animals and information on water holes, as well as a poem.



New Words:

1. **Fascinated**- strongly attracted

2. **Piqued**- arouse (interest or curiosity).

3. **Submerge**- something to be under water

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

Comprehension:

1. To where do the wildebeest move in search of pastures?
2. From which country do the wildebeest migrate to Kenya Game Reserve?
3. Why would the predators starve to death?
4. What do you think a water hole is?
5. When is a water hole created?
6. Which animal can go without water for days?

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

Prompts Pair up

1. Wildebeest Obstacle Course

Create an obstacle course in the classroom or outside using chairs, boxes, and other materials. Take turns pretending to be a wildebeest, jumping over obstacles and avoiding "predators" like lions and cheetahs. Discuss the challenges that wildebeests face in their natural habitat and how climate change affects their migration patterns.

2. Wildlife Documentary

Discuss to create a wildlife documentary about the wildebeest migration and the impact of climate change on their survival. Use photos and videos to illustrate the journey and include information on the different predators and obstacles that the wildebeest encounter.

Watch the video on the Wildebeest using the QR code.



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