



EXTENSION

Name:

1 The words below appear in the text in Exercise 2. Find the words and guess their meanings. Use a dictionary to check your guesses.

- 1. native
- 2. rate
- 3. reintroduce
- 4. increase

2 Read the text and tick (✓) the sentences T (true) or F (false). Then complete the sentences in reported speech, correcting the false sentences.

Calling all Dingoes and Tasmanian Devils!

Australia is famous for its unique native animal species, including kangaroos, koalas and platypuses. The country is less well known for this sad fact: it has got the world's highest rate of extinction of mammals.

One cause of this is non-native animals. Foxes, cats, rats and other animals were brought to Australia by European explorers and settlers, beginning in the 17th century. Conservation experts explained that those animals threatened many native species by hunting them and by competing with them for food and habitat. This resulted in a dramatic change in the country's natural environment.

In order to change this, some experts have recommended a natural solution. They want to reintroduce the Tasmanian Devil, a carnivorous marsupial, to many parts of Australia, and to try to increase the population of dingoes, a wild Australian dog. These animals are natural enemies of many non-native species. Today, the Tasmanian Devil lives in the wild only in Tasmania, an island in Australia. The dingo lives in many parts of Australia, but its population has become smaller in recent years.

Reintroducing animals in order to improve the natural environment has succeeded in many places, including in Yellowstone National Park in the United States. Wolves disappeared from Yellowstone before 1940 because so many people hunted them. Without the wolf – the main natural enemy of elk, or large deer – the elk population grew large enough to destroy other animals' habitats. Doug Smith, a wildlife biologist, said that some of those other animals, including beavers, had nearly disappeared in Yellowstone. Wolves were reintroduced in the late 1990s, and the result has been amazing. The wolves are now controlling the elk population and as a result, the population of beavers and other animals has grown.

If Australia decides to follow the experts' advice and reintroduce dingoes and Tasmanian Devils, it will be good news for other native species!

| | T | F |
|---|-------|-------|
| 1. "Europeans started to bring non-native animals to Australia in the 1700s." He told us that | | |
| 2. "Why don't we increase the population of foxes in Australia?" Experts suggested | | |
| 3 "Yellowstone National Park is an example of reintroducing native animals to save the environment." Experts said that | | |
| 4. "The elks are controlling the wolf population in Yellowstone National Park." Experts said that | | |

3 Complete the sentences.

1. The koala is one of
2. Non-native animals for food and habitat.
3. Experts want to control the number of non-native species in Australia by
.....
4. The number of dingoes in Australia is it once was.
5. Animals such as beavers almost disappeared from Yellowstone National Park because
.....

4 Imagine you are a reporter about to interview an Australian conservation expert about reintroducing Tasmanian Devils and dingoes. Write five questions to ask the expert.