

Text A

An extract from *Adventures of a young naturalist* by David Attenborough, set in the 1950s

These days zoos don't send out animal collectors on quests to 'bring 'em back alive'. And quite right too. The natural world is under more than enough pressure as it is, without being robbed of its most beautiful, charismatic and rarest inhabitants. Now most of a zoo's crowd-attracting species – lions, tigers and rhinos – have been born in zoos and kept track of in registers, so individual animals can be exchanged internationally without incurring problems of in-breeding¹. Zoos can then play a valuable part in familiarising visitors with the splendours of the natural world and in explaining the importance and complexities of conservation. 5

But it was not always so. London Zoo was founded in 1828 by scientists who were concerned with compiling a catalogue of all the species of animals alive. Some were sent to it from distant parts of the world as dead specimens. Others arrived alive and were put on display in the zoo's gardens. But both kinds ended up as well-studied anatomical specimens and were carefully preserved. Needless to say, special attention was paid to finding species that no other zoo had ever possessed, and that ambition still lingered on even in the 1950s when I visited one of the zoo's curators, Jack Lester, with an idea for a new kind of television programme. 10 15

My plan was simple – a joint animal-collecting expedition on which we should both go. I would direct film sequences showing Jack searching for and finally capturing a creature of particular interest. We agreed on a jungle location without any difficulty.

Jack had been to Sierra Leone. He knew the country and he knew the fauna. I was convinced, however, that if the television programmes were to be a success, the expedition should have one particular objective – a rare creature that had never been seen in any zoo anywhere else in the world; an animal so romantic, rare and exciting that the quest for it would keep viewers watching programme after programme. We could call the series *Quest for...* but what? 20

It was a difficult bill to fill. The only animal Jack could think of in Sierra Leone that might remotely qualify was a bird called *Picathartes gymnocephalus*. It seemed to me that raising the public into a frenzy of excited anticipation to see a creature with such a name might be difficult. Had it not got another, more romantic one? 'Yes, indeed,' Jack said helpfully, 'its English name is bare-headed rock fowl'. I decided to call the series Zoo Quest. 25

Glossary

¹in-breeding: breeding between closely related animals, which might cause birth defects

Read Text A, an extract from an autobiography, then answer the following questions:

1. Look at the first paragraph (lines 3–9), why are inverted commas (‘ ’) used?

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2. Look at line 15 and give one word or phrase that means ‘continued’.

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3. Look at the fifth paragraph (lines 25–29).

(a) It was a difficult bill to fill refer to? What does ‘It’ in the sentence refer to?

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(b) Explain why the writer finally settled on the name *Zoo Quest* for his new T.V. programme.

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4. From line 26, why is *Picathartes gymnocephalus* written in italics?

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5. From lines 10-15, find an adverb and specify its type.

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6. That ambition still lingered on even in the 1950s when I visited one of the zoo’s curators.

Rewrite the sentence in the zero IF conditional. Start with the sentence underlined and make the necessary changes.

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