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| **Saving the orangutan** | **Language features** |
| Orangutans are the world's largest tree-climbing mammals. But the number of orangutans living in the forests in Indonesia and Malaysia is rapidly decreasing for a number of reasons. This is putting the future of these great apes in peril. We strongly believe that it is time that communities across the world took a stand to try to save the orangutans from extinction. | *usually written in present simple tense**specialised vocabulary and technical terms related to the topic being argued**citing of experts using reporting verbs to provide evidence to support argument**emotive words and phrases to persuade the reader**occasional use of passive voice - instead of saying ‘People hunt orangutans for food’, the author writes ‘Orangutans are hunted for food’. Passive voice allows the emphasis to be kept on the topic at the beginning of the sentence.* *text connectives to add and sequence arguments in the text**a variety of verb types is used, for example: action/doing verbs - clear, build, move; relating verbs -is, are; thinking/sensing verbs – hope, believe, think**use of modality in the verb group of obligation or ‘mustness’ to persuade the reader to commit to or do something.* |
| Loss of habitat is the greatest threat to orangutans. Farmers clear huge areas of forest to grow crops, particularly palm oil - a product that is commonly found in many supermarket goods around the world such as shampoo, deodorant and chocolate biscuits. Land is also cleared to build roads, to collect timber and for mining. Today, experts state that more than 50% of orangutans live outside of protected forest areas on land owned by timber, palm oil and mining companies. Orangutans are now an endangered species that need protection. |
| Furthermore, hunters illegally capture young orangutans up to the age of seven for the illegal pet trade. When young orangutans are caught, the mother is also usually killed so this cruel activity is a real threat to orangutans living in the wild. |
| In addition, orangutans are hunted in some areas for food. They are also sometimeskilled when they move into farming areas and destroy crops. |
| Lastly, fire is also a major threat to orangutans. In 1997, an uncontrollable forest fire burned in an area of Indonesia. It lasted for 6 months and killed up to 8,000 orangutans. |
| We strongly believe that animal welfare organisations, farmers, mining companies and food manufacturers must work closely with the law makers to develop safe and sustainable ways to make money for the farmers and other businesses. At the same time, they should respect the habitat, welfare and preservation of the orangutans. |