

BOMBA IS IN DANGER

Warm Up

LOOK AT THIS PICTURE



shutterstock

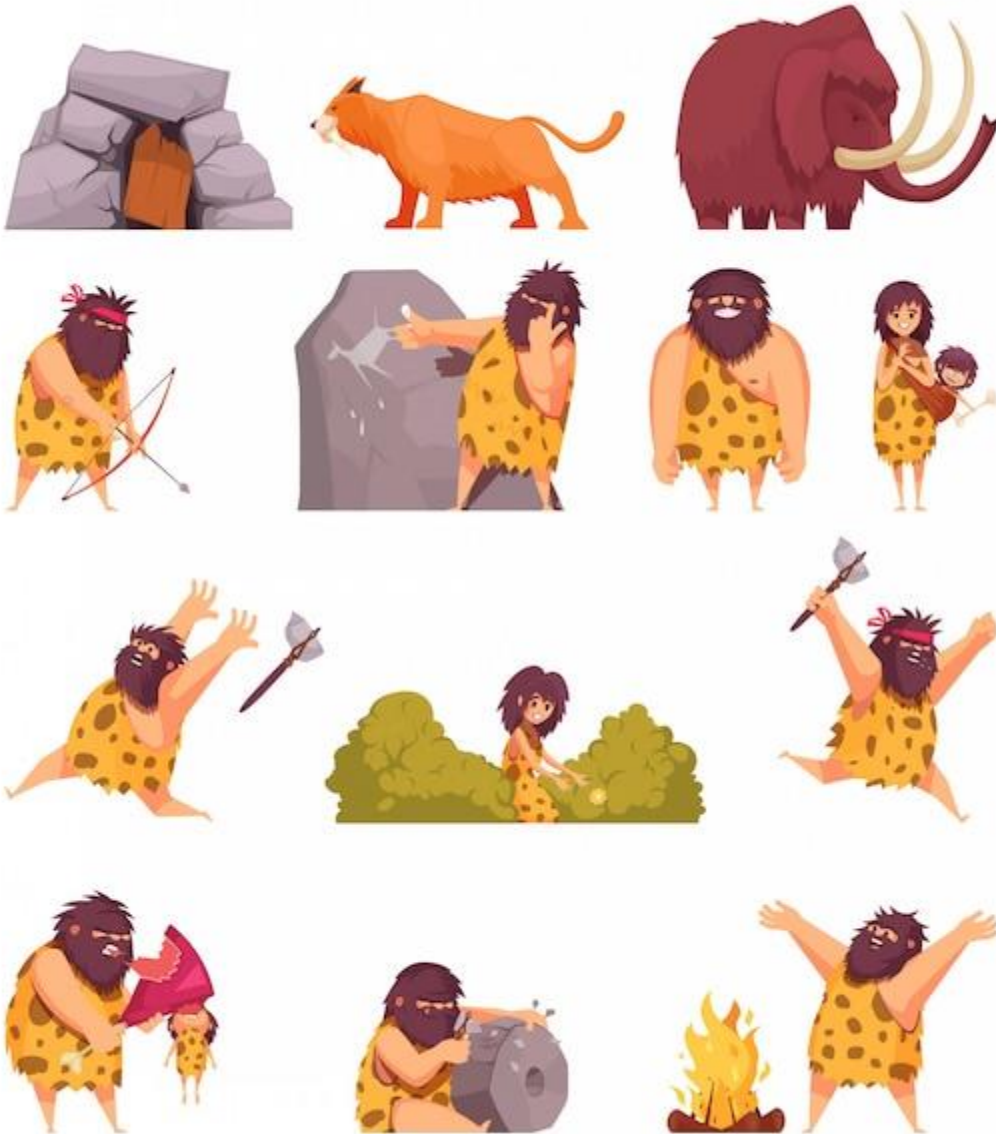
IMAGE ID: 2189030979
www.shutterstock.com

Name two places where you can find these animals.

Where can they live with complete freedom?

Should they be allowed to be caged?

What do you think of people who hunt animals?



Vocabulary

concealed: hidden

savages: uncivilized people

foliage: greenery

penetrate: come in

weary: tired

previous: earlier

discern: make out, see

comrades: a fellow soldier or a fellow member of a party/organization etc.

frantic: filled with extreme fear or emotion

comprehended: understood

investigate: check

conflict: fight/disagreement

inevitable: that which will definitely happen

Phrases to be explained by the mentor before the reading

brawny forms: thickly built men

stout heart: brave heart

pang stabbed: a feeling of pain and fear rose in his heart

refused to quail: refused to be scared

steeled himself: made himself ready

In a flash: quickly

BOMBA IS IN DANGER

BOMBA saw half a dozen brawny forms and dropped at once into the hollow so that he was wholly concealed.

A pang stabbed his heart as he noted the number of his enemies. Against so many, he could not hope to win, if it came to a fight. He might bring down one or two, possibly three, but the others would catch him. But his stout heart refused to quail. He had the advantage of position. He could see them outlined against the light more easily than they could see him in the darkness. He could at least have the satisfaction of having died after killing several enemies.

Some of the savages crowded in among the foliage, pushing the branches and leaves aside so that light could penetrate.

But the light was dim, though strong enough to show the outline of the giant trunk. To the peering eyes of the savages, it seemed to be lying flat on the ground, and they failed to see the hollow underneath. As far as they could see there was no one hiding there.

“Not here,” grunted one of them, already weary with the previous effort of searching the bushes.

Bomba’s heart leaped. He thought they would now stop searching for him. But it sank again when a voice that had authority in it said:

“Go in farther. Make sure.”

Grumblingly the men obeyed, and Bomba could hear them coming nearer. He tightened his hold on the revolver.

Suddenly there was a shriek of fright, and one of the savages jumped a foot into the air. Then he made a break for the open, shouting:

“Snake! Snake!”

His comrades followed, rushing with frantic, headlong haste into the clearing.

In a flash, Bomba, the jungle boy, comprehended what had happened. The man had stepped on the soft body of the dead serpent and had jumped to the conclusion that it was alive. Naturally, he had not waited to investigate but had leapt out of the reach of the supposedly deadly fangs.

Now he stood outside the mass of branches and was talking excitedly as he told the others how he had narrowly escaped being bitten by a snake.

The search stopped then and there. The men were reasonably certain, anyway, that their hoped-for victim was not there, and they were perfectly content to leave the snake undisturbed.

Bomba could hear them moving farther and farther off until at last the sound of their footsteps and voices died away in the distance.

He could scarcely believe his good fortune. He had steeled himself for the conflict that seemed almost inevitable and from which he had not expected to come out alive.

The coming of the snake, which had earlier filled him with fear, had really proved a blessing. Living, it had tried to kill him. Dead, it had helped to save him.

Adapted from:

https://www.gutenberg.org/cache/epub/72207/pg72207-images.html#Page_19

Comprehension

- A. Tick the most appropriate answer.
1. Bomba dropped into the hollow so that:
 - a. his enemies could find him
 - b. a pang could stab his heart
 - c. he could conquer them
 - d. he could hide from them
 2. Bomba was sure that he could kill a few of the enemies because:
 - a. he was young
 - b. he was a good boy
 - c. he had the advantage of the position
 3. Bomba couldn't hope to win against so many because:
 - a. he was afraid of them
 - b. he did not know how to fight
 - c. he was alone and they were many
 - d. his hands were tied
 4. Bomba could see the enemy clearly because:
 - a. they were in the dark

- b. they were visible in the light
 - c. he had good eyesight
 - d. they had the advantage of position
5. The savages parted the branches and leaves:
- a. to look for Bomba
 - b. to hide in the foliage
 - c. to look for the snake
 - d. to run away from the snake

B. Write short answers.

1. Why did Bomba hide in the hollow?
2. What made Bomba's heart sink in fear?
3. What stopped the search?

C. Write in about 40 words why we can say that Bomba was brave.

D. Find words in the passage that mean the same as:

1. muscular _____

2. empty space _____
3. to feel a sense of pleasure because of doing something well _____
4. a place where something is located _____
5. get inside _____

E. Complete the sentences with words from 'vocabulary'.

1. _____ and headhunters lived in this area centuries ago.
2. After the long trek, the children were _____ and sat down to rest.
3. The _____ safe could not be found easily.
4. I can _____ a faint outline of the mountain in the distance.
5. They are our _____. They are a part of our team; We will take care of them.
6. The thick _____ of the jungle did not allow us to see the tiger though we could hear its roar.

7. Have you _____ the question or do you need an explanation for it?
8. No light can _____ into this dark cave.
9. It was the _____ waving of her hand that told me that she needed help.
10. The end was _____. Nothing could have changed it.
11. Have you read the _____ page? if not read it before you read this page.
12. The old man's _____ eyes could not see clearly.
13. The police will _____ and find how the thieves entered the house.
14. A _____ arose because the two friends could not agree on the answer.

F. Make sentences with the words given under 'Vocabulary'. Your sentences should make the meaning of the word clear.