

8 Build your competences

WILD LONDON

Warm up

1 Look at the pictures and match the animals to their names. Which of these animals do you think can be found in London?

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A fox | <input type="checkbox"/> scorpion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> pigeon | <input type="checkbox"/> seal |
| <input type="checkbox"/> rat | <input type="checkbox"/> squirrel |

Reading

2 Read the text and check your answers.

Everyone knows London as an international city of the arts, fashion and finance, but did you know it also has a wild side? Well, get ready for surprise! If you eat your lunch in a café in Hyde Park, you can meet some unexpected furry guests at the table.

People don't only feed London's squirrels, but these little animals are so tame that anybody can play with them as well! Urban foxes are also a common sight in London today. In the countryside they eat insects, small mammals and berries, but in the city they also eat the food humans give them. One lady in London, Lilian Alabaster, even trains foxes to sit before throwing them sausages from her flat window!

Another London resident is the pigeon. For years people fed pigeons as they sat on their heads and shoulders in Trafalgar Square, but it became a crime to do so because of damage to the historical site.

The pigeons' solution was quite literally to go underground! They

use the London underground to get around the city, hopping on and off at different stops!

Other unwelcome wild visitors to London include Norwegian brown rats, which can grow twice as big as they can in the rest of Europe, and European yellow-tailed scorpions!

If you look closely at the River Thames you can see more welcome visitors to the city. Records show that over 700 seals live along the river, attracted by the good water quality and the abundance of fish.

You can also spot a number of wild birds around London, such as a young peregrine falcon who hangs out in Marylebone Road, and more than 6,000 parrots in South London.

Glossary

furry	= _____
tame	= _____
trains (v)	= _____
hopping on and off	= _____



Listening

4 Did you know that six imperial ravens watch over the Tower of London? Before listening to the tour guide, complete the sentences with the words in the box.

family raw whole feathers

- Birds have _____ on their body and wings.
- Ravens belong to the crow _____.
- _____ meat is not cooked.
- _____ means complete, entire.

5 Listen to the tour guide talking about the ravens at the Tower of London and complete the file.

Ravens at the Tower of London

Legend: the ravens **protect** the tower

Characteristics: 1 _____ feathers, so they can't fly away

Food: raw 2 _____ and 3 _____ soaked in blood

and sometimes a whole 4 _____

Oldest raven ever: Jim Crow aged 5 _____

Speaking

6 Are there any wild animals in the city you live in? Tell a friend.

- Can you see wild animals in your town or city? Which ones can you see? *You can see...*
- Where can you see them? *You can see them in / on / under / near...*
- Which animals are welcome and which are unwelcome? *Everybody likes / dislikes...*
- What do they eat? Can people feed them? *They eat...*
- Which is your favourite / least favourite wild animal? *My favourite wild animal is... / my least favourite is...*

Writing

7 Write a brief description of the wild animals in your city based on the answers in exercise 6.

You can't see many wild animals in my city, but in the countryside / at the zoo you can see...

KIDS AT WORK!

VideoSprint Record a short video on the wild animals in your garden or in your city's park and describe them.

SprintAhead Prepare a list of the main rules at your school and bring it to the class next time.