6. Elephants in the road!

Look at the picture. How do you think the people on the bus feel about the elephants? Why?



Talent and his grandmother were sitting on a bus. They were travelling to the nearest town. Talent's grandmother wanted to buy some equipment for producing marula oil.

Suddenly, the bus stopped. Talent and his grandmother looked out of the window to see why. There were lots of elephants in the road!

"Oh dear," said Talent. "I hope the elephants go away soon. We need to get to the town before the shops close!"

"I think there are a lot of elephants around here. That's because we're near a game reserve," said his grandmother.

"Grandma, do you know how many elephants there are in Zimbabwe?" asked Talent.

"I have no idea," said Grandma.

"I know," said Talent. "I learned about it at school. Let's do it like a quiz! Do you think it's about 800 elephants, about 8 000 elephants or about 80 000 elephants?"

"I'm sure it's more than 800," said Grandma. "I think it's about 8 000."

"It's about 80 000!" said Talent.

"Why doesn't the driver sound the horn?" asked Grandma.

"I don't think that's a good idea," said Talent. "It's dangerous to make an elephant scared or angry."

After about ten minutes, one of the elephants started walking off the road and into the bush.

"Great! He's going!" said Talent.

"She's going," said Grandma. "The leader of the herd is usually the oldest female elephant."

The other elephants soon followed the leader, and the road was clear.

"I didn't know that," said Talent. "I've learned something new today!"

- 1. Why did the bus stop?
- 2. Why were there elephants in the road?
- 3. How did Talent find out about elephants?
- 4. What question about elephants did Talent ask?
- 5. What was the correct answer?

Zimbabwe wildlife quiz

Can you guess the answers to these questions? (They are on page 1.)

- 1. How many different types of wild animal are there in Zimbabwe?
 - a) About 350
- b) About 3 500
- c) About 35 000

- 2. How tall are giraffes?
 - a) Up to 3.5 metres
- b) Up to 4.5 metres
- c) Up to 5.5 metres
- 3. How many giraffes are there in Zimbabwe?
 - a) About 2 000
- b) About 20 000
- c) About 200 000
- 4. How much do elephants eat each day?
 - a) Up to 100 kg
- b) Up to 300 kg
- c) Up to 500 kg
- 5. How many stripes do Zebras usually have on each side?
 - a) 20 30

- b) 30 40
- c) 40 50
- 6. Which of these wild animals is not found in Zimbabwe?
 - a) the buffalo
- b) the lion
- c) the leopard
- d) the rhinoceros

- e) the hyena
- f) the tiger
- g) the crocodile
- h) the hippopotamus

