

# Daily Launch Day 11

## Do Now: Past, Present, or Future?

Writers often include clues to tell us whether they are describing something that happened in the past, something that's going on now, or something that could happen in the future. Read the list of words and phrases below. Decide whether each one suggests something happening in the past, in the present, or in the future. Make a check mark in the column that matches your choice.



Words and Phrases	Past	Present	Future
used to			
would always			
now			
expecting to			
had gone			
some day			
previously			
will go			
goes			
currently			
in the next few years			



# Daily Launch Day 12



## Do Now: What I Still Want to Know

One surprising thing that people discover as they learn is this: The more you learn, the more you want to know. Why? Because as you learn new information, you also realize how much more there is to find out.

Think back over the past couple of weeks. What have you learned about big cats? What new questions do you have now that you didn't have before? Then fill out the personal reflection below.

### Personal Reflection: What I *Still* Want to Know

One thing I've learned about big cats is \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

But now I want to find out \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Another thing I've learned about big cats is \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

But now I also want to find out \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

The third thing I've learned during this unit is \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

But now I *really* to find out \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



## Tracker Dogs Use Their Noses to Sniff Out Poachers

---

### Saving Big Cats, Elephants, and Other Wildlife in Kenya

---

*By Agence France-Presse on 05.29.18, adapted by Newsela and ALFA staff*



Kelvin Sanare, a ranger with the canine unit, poses with puppies Morani and Shakaria during their training in the Maasai Mara National Reserve in Kenya on January 24, 2018. The dogs are being trained to sniff out poachers, ivory, and guns. *Photo by: Yasuyoshi Chiba/AFP/Getty Images.*

**MAASAI MARA**—Shakaria is a 5-month-old puppy. She lives in Kenya’s Maasai Mara wildlife refuge. The refuge is part of a large ecosystem where some of Africa’s most famous animals live. They include lions, leopards, cheetahs, elephants, giraffes, wildebeests, and zebras.

Shakaria is just a puppy, but she goes from playful to serious when she is working. She pulls her handler along through tall grasses. Finally, she finds a ranger hiding in the grass. The ranger is pretending to be one of the poachers she is learning to sniff out.

**Teaching Puppies to Stop Poachers (Section 1)**

Shakaria is one of five puppies learning this job. After their training, they will join a team of six other tracker dogs working in the refuge. The dogs help rangers capture poachers who are trying to kill animals and sell their meat, body parts, skins, or ivory.

Lema Langas is a Kenyan ranger in charge of the dogs. He says the main problem in the park right now is to stop people poaching animals for their meat. They catch the animals with wire traps. Then, they kill them and sell the meat, which is dried and exported as “bushmeat.”

The poachers go after many of the animals that big cats use for food, such as gazelles, antelopes, giraffes, and buffaloes. But lions, other big cats, and elephants also get caught in the traps and killed.

**Poachers Hide, Dogs Sniff Them Out (Section 2)**

Rangers used to have a hard time spotting the poachers in the grasslands and valleys of the refuge. But they would find thousands of deadly traps set up in the refuge each year. That is why they got tracker dogs.

“They use their noses to see, not like us who use the eyes,” Langas said. Even when poachers leave no footprints in the grass, the dogs can smell them and track them down. The dogs have made a big difference.

Asukaka Takita helped start the dog program 18 years ago. She said, “We have caught over 4,000 poachers since the program started.”

**Special Cameras and a New Law Also Help Stop Poachers (Section 3)**

At night, rangers use special cameras to find poachers. The cameras show the poachers’ body heat so that rangers can easily spot them.

Five years ago, Kenya passed a new law against poaching. Poachers can go to jail for the rest of their life. Or they could pay a \$20,000 fine. The law helps protect more wildlife. It has made a lot of poachers stop hunting animals illegally.

## Detective Dogs Go Global

As the sun goes down over the Zimbabwe (Zim-BOB-way) plains, wild animals look for dinner. Lions stretch and yawn as they wake from their daytime sleep. But the lions aren't the only ones on the prowl. Three men have entered the wildlife refuge illegally, their guns ready to take down rare endangered rhinos. Exported to China or Vietnam, a rhino horn can bring in more than \$200,000.



Orphaned rhinos at a watering hole in Zimbabwe.

Photo adapted from <https://www.flickr.com/photos/iip-photo-archive/36515885133>, International Rhino Foundation

Tonight, though, the poachers may not get their wish. Two sleek tracker dogs, Polaris and Rogue, follow their scent and quickly sniff them out. Their handler, Samuel, and other rangers are close behind. The poachers panic and give up. The rangers capture them and recover their dangerous arms. That's one less violent gang now threatening the lives of the many endangered animals living in the park.



Countries where Animals Saving Animals works include Botswana, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Tanzania, Kenya, and India.

Kenya is not the only country where dogs play a powerful role in combating poachers and saving wildlife. Canine units are on the ground with their handlers, protecting other animals in places from Botswana and Zimbabwe to Guwahati (goo-wah-HOT-ee) in northern India. In 2016, a British dog instructor named Darryl Pleasants started an organization called Animals Saving Animals that trains dogs and handlers in countries around the globe. Sometimes dogs even get

to ride with their handlers in helicopters to the scene of a wildlife crime.

What makes the dogs such great detectives? We can start with their super-powered sense of smell. Dogs have noses that are about 40 times more powerful than the human nose. Dogs can help scientists discover where endangered animals are hiding by smelling them out. Then, the scientists can protect the

animals better. Other dogs use their noses to track the poachers and help rangers capture them—even at night. Still other dogs put their noses to work detecting wildlife parts being exported, such as rhino horns, tiger and leopard skins, and ivory. Then local police can arrest the people involved in this illegal trade.

The dogs are also very fast and strong. In the past, different dogs had different



A Belgian Malinois ready for action. Photo: <https://www.jble.af.mil/News/Photos/igphoto/2000914465/> (adapted)

jobs. Some dogs learned to search, others to track, and still others to attack. Valuable time was lost in the battle against poachers. Now, however, Pleasants trains dogs to do all three jobs. One kind of dog he likes to work with is the Belgian Malinois (mow-lee-NWAH), which is similar to a German shepherd. These dogs are smart, quick, and have a powerful bite. They make up many police and military canine units, and even help the Secret Service guard the White House.

Before they can go to work, the dogs receive months of intensive training. They learn to stay calm under gunfire or in thick smoke. The dogs' handlers are trained as well. For example, they learn to keep the dogs sharp by giving them a break every hour while they are working. Pleasants says, "That is very important, because a dog will be as good as its handler."

What's next? Drum is a new trainee at Animals Saving Animals. He is not a Belgian Malinois, though—he's a Springer spaniel, training to detect guns and explosives. In a few more months, he'll travel to the Ol Pejeta (OL pay-YAY-tuh) refuge in Kenya, where he'll become the newest member of the canine team fighting poachers and saving animals.

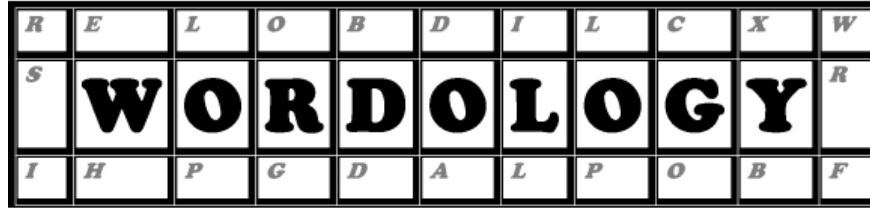
To watch a video about tracker dogs in Kenya, open this link: <https://vimeo.com/100928834>



Springer spaniel puppy

Sources: "Meet the dogs on the anti-poaching front line" by Kate Lewis, *The Independent*, March 13, 2018; "Meet the dogs saving endangered species" by Ella Davis, *BBC Earth*, Dec. 18, 2018; "Poachers Watch Out as K9 on Guard," *Working Dog Magazine*; and <https://www.animalsavinganimals.org/kenya-detection-dogs> (1.16.19).





### Wordology Activity #1: Vocabulary Scramble

**Instructions:** Unscramble the letters to find words that fit in the boxes. All the words come from the Word Bank at the bottom of the page.

1. Another word for “catch” is

ercupta

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

2. A network of animals and plants in a habitat is an \_\_\_\_\_.

stycesome

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

3. \_\_\_\_\_ units are teams of dogs that use their noses to help people solve problems.

ennaci

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

4. We went to see the circus in our city’s \_\_\_\_\_.

neara

--	--	--	--	--	--

5. Many products are \_\_\_\_\_ to be sold in other countries.

perdoxte

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

6. \_\_\_\_\_ killed several tigers in the refuge before they were caught.

rescapho

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

7. Another word for “against the law” is \_\_\_\_\_.

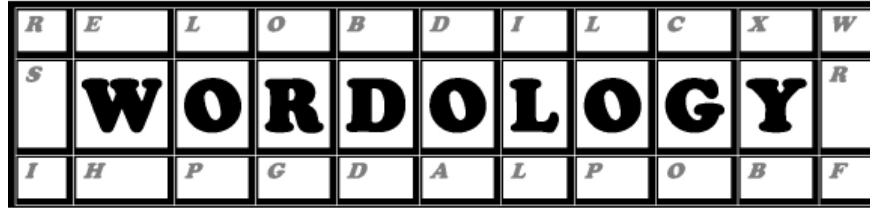
ylgilail

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

#### Word Bank

arena	canine	capture	ecosystem	
exported	fate	illegally	poachers	wandering





### Wordology Activity #2: Synonym Hunt

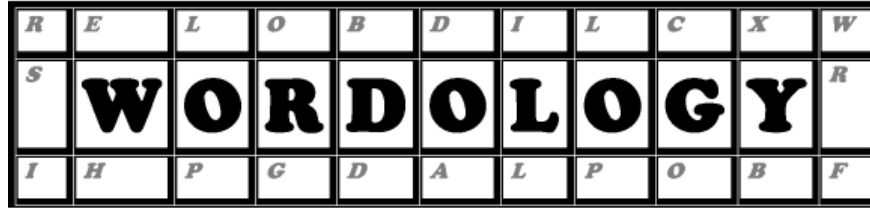
**Instructions:** A **synonym** is a word that means the same or almost the same as another word. **Rewrite** each sentence without changing its meaning. Choose a synonym from the Word Bank to replace the underlined word or phrase in each sentence.

1. Shakima believes it is her destiny to reach her goals through great struggle.
2. The network of plants and animals in the rainforest depend on one another.
3. Dad used a trap to catch the squirrels that got into the attic.
4. This movie made more money when it was sold overseas than it did at home.
5. Our basketball team played a special game in the indoor stadium downtown.
6. Animal thieves killed some of the big cats in the refuge and took their organs.
7. I took my dog to the vet to make sure it didn't have any dog diseases.
8. Those stray cats have been roaming up and down the alley all day.
9. My cousin hacked into the school computer system against the law.

#### Word Bank

arena	canine	capture	ecosystem	
exported	fate	illegally	poachers	wandering





### Wordology Activity #3: Using Vocabulary

Choose this activity after you read “Tracker Dogs Use Their Noses to Sniff Out Poachers.” Use the information in the text to answer the guide questions in complete sentences. Be sure to include the vocabulary word in your answer. You may refer to the text for help if you need to.

Vocabulary Word	Guide Question	Complete Sentence
1. <b>canine</b>	What job do the <b>canine</b> teams do at the wildlife refuge?	
2. <b>poachers</b>	Why do the <b>poachers</b> set traps for wild animals?	
3. <b>ecosystem</b>	What animals live in the <b>ecosystem</b> of the Maasai Mara park?	
4. <b>exported</b>	What is the <b>exported</b> meat from wild animals called?	
5. <b>capture</b>	How do special cameras help the rangers <b>capture</b> the poachers?	



R	E	L	O	B	D	I	L	C	X	W
S	<b>W</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>Y</b>	R
I	H	P	G	D	A	L	P	O	B	F

### Wordology Activity #4: Cryptogram Puzzle

**Instructions:** This puzzle is called a **Cryptogram**. At the bottom, there is a message in code. Every number stands for a letter. A few of the letters have been filled in. To solve the puzzle, you need to figure out which letters go with the other numbers. Once you figure out a letter, you can add it to the Key, and everywhere in the message that you see that number (for example, 17 always stands for “T,” so everywhere that 17 appears, “T” is filled in). Looks for short, familiar words to get you started, and use logic to figure it out! (**Hint:** The message includes several of the vocabulary words from “Tracker Dogs Use Their Noses to Sniff Out Poachers.”)

**Key:**

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
				24							19		7		10				17						

**Message:**

T \_ E P \_ \_ \_ E \_ \_ \_ P T \_ \_ E \_  
 17 5 24 10 11 15 21 5 24 12 25 21 15 10 17 13 12 24 2

\_ N \_ \_ L \_ L L E \_ \_ L L \_ \_ N \_  
 15 7 20 9 15 19 25 20 19 19 24 14 15 19 19 23 15 7 2

E \_ P \_ \_ T E \_ T \_ E \_ \_ \_ E \_ T.  
 24 1 10 11 12 17 24 2 17 5 24 20 12 9 24 15 17





R	E	L	O	B	D	I	L	C	X	W
S	<b>W</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>Y</b>	R
I	H	P	G	D	A	L	P	O	B	F

### Composing Meaningful Sentences

If you complete your chosen Wordology activity, take the remaining time at this station to write Meaningful Sentences using the vocabulary words listed below. (Remember, a Meaningful Sentence is a sentence that shows that you know what the word means!) Read and discuss your sentences with your teammates.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

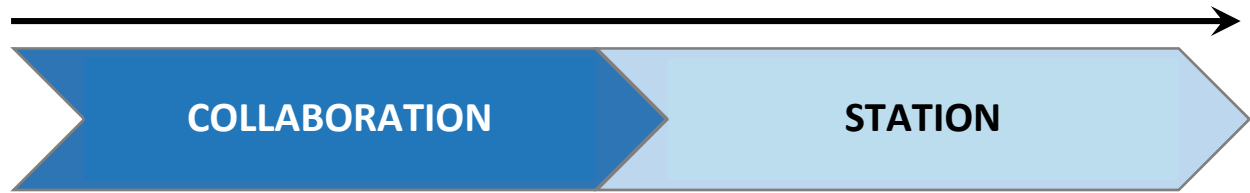
---

---

**Word Bank**

- |          |        |           |           |
|----------|--------|-----------|-----------|
| arena    | canine | capture   | ecosystem |
| exported | fate   | illegally | poachers  |
|          |        |           | wandering |





### Determining Chronological Order

**Instructions:** Turn to the **second** page of “Tracker Dogs Use Their Noses to Sniff Out Poachers.” Read Sections 1 and 2 silently. Then, take turns partner reading these two sections (“Teaching Puppies to Stop Poachers” and “Poachers Hide, Dogs Sniff Them Out”). As you read, underline the verbs (action words) in the text. Also, look for time clues: words like “ago,” “before,” “will,” or “used to.” If you find any time clues, circle them. When you finish reading, use short phrases to fill in the timeline below with events from the text.

Past

**What Happened Before:**

Present

**What's Happening Now:**

Future

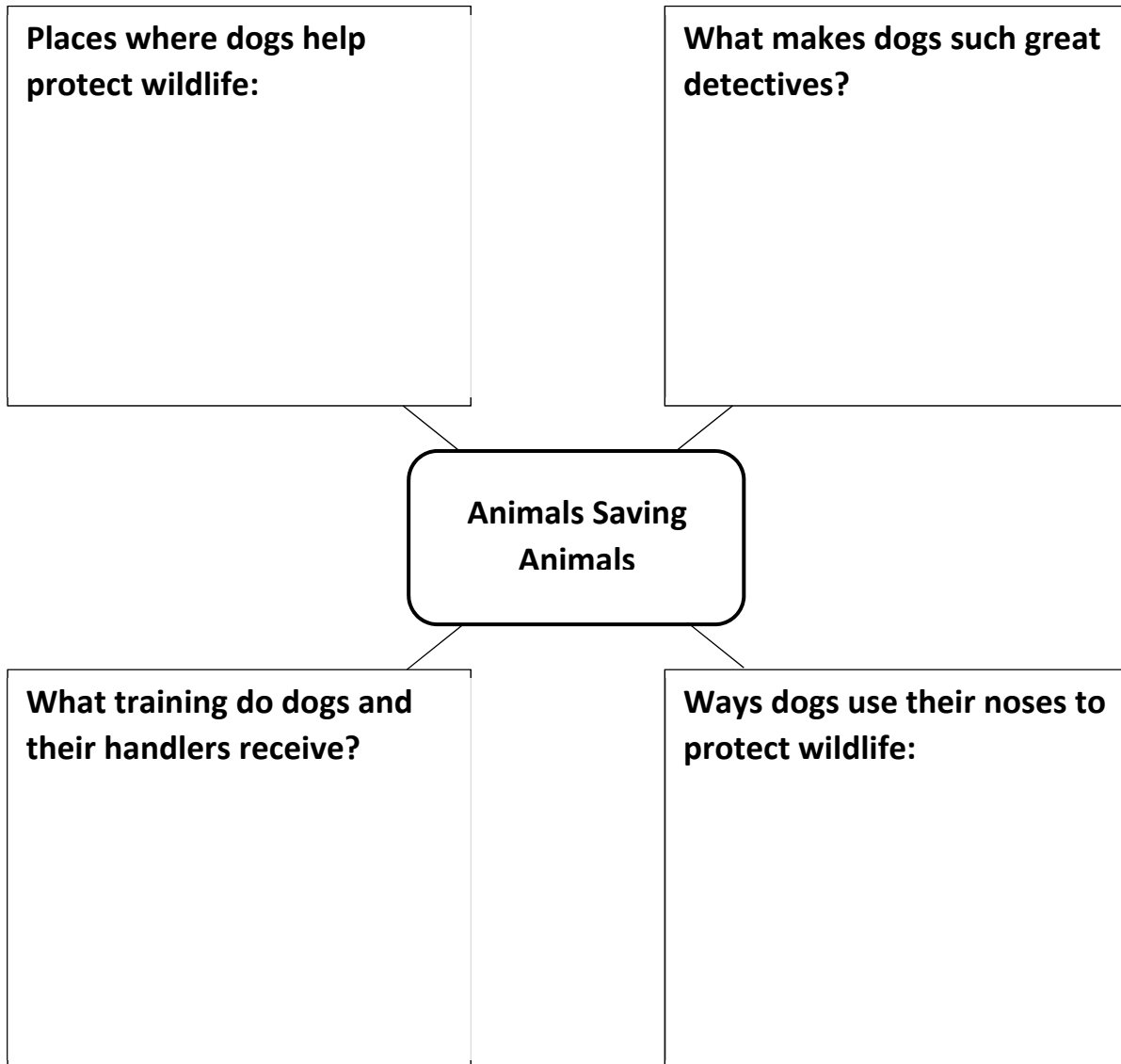
**What's Going to Happen:**





# Media Madness

**Instructions:** Listen to the audio recording of “Detective Dogs Go Global” on your device (tablet or laptop). As you listen, read along on your own copy. Then, use information from the article to add details to the graphic organizer below.



After you complete the assignment, you may enjoy this video about tracker dogs in Africa: <https://vimeo.com/100928834>