



Keep Scotland
Beautiful



Your Questions



Question:

What effect did the Chernobyl disaster have on climate change?

Short Answer:

The 1986 Chernobyl disaster released radioactive contamination into the atmosphere including iodine, caesium, strontium, and plutonium. These are not greenhouse gases so although they are harmful to the environment when released into the atmosphere, they are not the substances causing climate change.

But...

The effect of climate change on the remains of the reactor at Chernobyl **is** cause for concern.

Forest fires in the Chernobyl Exclusion Zone are becoming more frequent and more intense due to climate change and are now happening in places contaminated with higher levels of radioactive fallout, which is a problem for firefighters fighting these wildfires.

The UN says that the Exclusion Zone has become a 'wildlife sanctuary' because there are no people living there now. There has been an increase in wild boar, deer, elk, wolf, bear and beaver but scientists say there are fewer **types** of animals and birds.

Question:

When did climate change start?

Answer:

Earth's climate has naturally changed throughout history but the problem now is the **speed** of changes and the **source** of changes.

Scientists have found that greenhouse gases began warming the world's oceans as early as 1830. They found this by studying fossilised corals and tiny marine organisms.

Question:

How many penguins are there of each species at the zoo? Do they all have names?

Answer from Edinburgh Zoo:

We has 127 penguins in total: 6 King Penguins, 97 Gentoo Penguins and 24 Northern Rockhopper Penguins.

Yes all 127 penguins have names!

Question:

Where do all the animals in the zoo come from?

Answer from Rachel at Edinburgh Zoo:

Animals in zoos are usually born in the zoo or in another zoo and transferred to join new families once they're old enough.

Occasionally, individuals from a species may be struggling too much in the wild and so rescued or visit a zoo for a while to recover and then be released back where they were rescued from.

Question:

What's the name of the wildcat?

Answer from Rachel at Edinburgh Zoo:

Our wildcats at HWP are called Canna, Strom, Rannoch, Clair, Katrine, Eilein, Fiain, Blair and Vaara.

The female you met is called Claire and many of our wildcats are hidden away in our special off-show breeding area that Jasper mentioned, designed to help kittens keep the natural behaviours they'll need for surviving in the wild.

Question:

Would it be possible to see photos of the penguins, polar bear , koala and wildcat?

Answer from Rachel at Edinburgh Zoo:

Yes definitely! You can find photos of many of our animals on our free learning website: <https://learning.rzss.org.uk/> and you can watch them live on our webcams here: <https://www.edinburghzoo.org.uk/webcams/penguin-cam/#penguincam>

Question:

How many wildcats are left in the wild in Scotland?

Answer from Rachel at Edinburgh Zoo:

The number of wildcats is tricky to estimate because some are hybrids with domestic cats. This means the extinction of the species in Scotland is highly likely without carefully carried out wildcat releases.

Question:

How many polar bears are there at the Highland Wildlife Park? Also, Lucy would like to know where the polar bears came from?

Answer from Rachel at Edinburgh Zoo:

We have three Polar Bears: Arktos, Walker and Victoria.

Our three polar bears were born in Rostock Zoo in Germany, Ouwehand Zoo in the Netherlands and Osaka Tennoji Zoo in Japan.

Question:

Does the 'penguin walk' still happen at the zoo?

Answer from Rachel at Edinburgh Zoo:

It is currently paused due to Covid-19 but we're hoping to bring the parade back as soon as it's safe to do so because our penguins love it!

Question:

Are electric scooters good for the environment?

Answer:

Mostly, it depends on whether the electricity has come from renewable sources and how the scooter has been produced in the first place.

Question:

How does the Polar Bear survive well without constant ice in the zoo? How do polar bears stay cool in the summer?

Answer from Rachel at Edinburgh Zoo:

In the wild during the summer, polar bears don't have constant ice and they move to foraging for food, rather than hunting in the water. We have trees and other sheltered shade for our polar bears, as well as lots of cold water if they want a dip! Our brilliant keepers make popsicles and frozen meat-sicles for the bears to keep them cool and they also love playing with the hose!

In the wild and in zoos, polar bears will usually go for a swim to cool down if they need to.