

WEB QUEST QUESTIONS

Part I. Elephant Laws

Customs officials say the imported ivory is illegal. What does this mean?

- Does the ivory come from a country where elephants cannot be killed?
- Does the ivory come from a country that cannot sell its stockpiled ivory?
- Does it come from a country that should not be re-selling ivory?

By going to the Web to answer the following questions and with your electrophoresis data, you can decide if the detained traveler is in deep doo-doo with the US Customs Office.

1. At this moment, which countries are allowed to kill elephants for ivory or sell stockpiled ivory?

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2. At this moment, which countries are permitted to buy, process, and re-sell ivory from Africa?

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3. At this moment, can any ivory products be imported into the United States?

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4. Over the past few years, which countries have been allowed to kill elephants for ivory or sell stockpiled ivory from legal cullings?

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Part II. Elephant Ethics

The following ethical and philosophical questions are difficult to research on the Web. You might find the 'related questions' easier to answer and those answers helpful in answering the more general numbered question.

1. How do you think a person justifies the poaching or legal killing of elephants?
Related questions: How much does a poacher earn from selling an ivory tusk? What is the monthly salary of an African farmer?

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2. Should elephant culling be legalized in countries with an abundance of elephants? Should it be legal for the ivory from culled elephants to be sold on the open market? Do you think elephants should be killed for their ivory in order to pay for maintaining elephant habitat?

Related questions: What is culling? Why are herds culled? How is culled ivory stored? If sold, who earns the money and what is the money used for? What are alternatives to culling?

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3. If the hunting and killing of elephants is a cultural tradition, should it be allowed to occur for certain groups of people? Should it be banned? If elephants compete with humans for agricultural or forest resources, should those elephants be removed?

Related questions: How has the elephant been used by native cultures? Who used elephant products? Were enough elephants killed prior to colonization by Europeans to threaten the existence of the species? Where has deforestation occurred? What can be done to maintain elephant habitat?

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4. Can an international group make policy decisions for individual countries and be responsible for enforcing them? Should scientific data alone be used to determine international policy decisions?

Related questions: What international agencies regulate ivory trade? Who has opposed the regulation? Under what authority do the international agencies operate?

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