
Today's Headlines:

Ebola vaccine on trial is 'highly effective'

Madagascar's lemurs under threat

Hoop dance inspires Native American youth

Transcript:

A major milestone in the fight against Ebola. Tests of an experimental vaccine in Guinea found the **pioneering** treatment to be up to 100% effective. Nearly 6,000 people received the vaccine; all were free of the virus 10 days later. Guinea was at the centre of the largest outbreak of Ebola in history. First identified at 2013, it swept through West Africa killing 70% of those infected and presenting the World Health Organisation with one of its biggest challenges. More than 11,000 people died and until now there was no known cure.

Madagascar is losing its wide-eyed wonderers – the lemurs – at an alarming rate. They are increasingly under threat from hunting and deforestation. Eighty percent of their habitat has been destroyed. Of the 50 kinds of lemur; 17 are endangered and 19 are vulnerable. The Nahanpoana Reserve in southern Madagascar has become a **safe haven** for the lemurs under threat. However, the money raised from the 3,000 tourists that visit every year here is barely enough to keep the sanctuary open. Without more help, lemurs could disappear from the wild in just a few decades.

In the interest of preserving culture and identity among Native Americans, Steve LaRance decided to start teaching a traditional hoop dance to young children. The artist lives in New Mexico. He started the Pueblo of Pojoaque Youth Hoop Dancers in 2013, at a time when he felt the younger generation was becoming too **distracted** by modern influences and technologies.

Words and phrases and definitions:

pioneering

doing something never done before

safe haven

a place of protection from threats

distracted

having the attention taken by something

Watch the video online: <http://bbc.in/2hyvpeE>

Exercise:

Use one of the words or phrases from Lingohack to complete each of these sentences. Note that you may have to change the form of a word or phrase to complete the sentence correctly.

pioneering / safe haven / distracted

1. Britain provided a _____ for refugees who left continental Europe during World War Two.
2. The first heart transplant was performed in 1967. The _____ surgery was carried out in a South African hospital.
3. Marina's mother was annoyed with her. All that computer gaming was a _____ at a time when the girl should study for her exams.

Answers:

1. Britain provided a **safe haven** for refugees who left continental Europe during World War Two.
2. The first heart transplant was performed in 1967. The **pioneering** surgery was carried out in a South African hospital.
3. Marina's mother was annoyed with her. All that computer gaming was a **distraction** at a time when the girl should study for her exams.