

## Arizona Wildlife Podcast Comprehension Activity

### Episode 6: Human-Wildlife Conflicts Resulting from Outdoor Recreation

**Part A:** Each statement below is incorrect. Determine what is wrong with each one and make changes so they will be correct.

1. It takes the desert about ~~ten~~ (fifty) years to recover from unethical off-highway vehicle use.
2. The off-road education slogan for the Arizona Game and Fish is ~~“Leave No Trace”~~ (“Stay on Roads and Trails”).
3. Kartchner Caverns opened ~~immediately~~ (about 30 years) after discovery to provide protection for bats.

**Part B:** For each item below, provide one way (a) it benefits wildlife, (b) it provides outdoor recreation for people, and (c) a problem that recreation can cause to wildlife.

1. Cave
  - a. Provides shelter for bats and other wildlife.
  - b. Spelunking (or cave exploration) is a popular recreation activity.
  - c. Once a cave is opened, the ecosystem is changed and may no longer be suitable for bats.
2. Mineshaft
  - a. Provides shelter for owls, bats and other large mammals.
  - b. Humans like to explore these abandoned mines.
  - c. The human presence may scare off animals and force them to permanently leave their shelters.
3. Open desert
  - a. This is critical habitat for a large number of species, including reptiles.
  - b. Humans hike, camp, and use off-highway vehicles in the desert.
  - c. By travelling off trail in the desert, humans may destroy critical habitat for species and it may take years for this habitat to recover.

**Part C:** Answer each question below in complete sentences. The answers are not necessarily included in the content. They may require some critical thinking.

1. In 2009, the state of Arizona will start to require all off-highway vehicles be licensed. What are the pros and cons of this policy?

Answers will vary. The licensing will bring additional fees into the state to help protect wildlife habitat impacted by OHVs and maintain access to established roads and trails. However, the additional oversight may discourage current OHV users and cause resentment.

2. In your opinion, is outdoor recreation more beneficial or detrimental to the future of Arizona’s wildlife?

Answers will vary. Some students may believe that allowing people to get close to nature will enhance their appreciation, and therefore, support of wildlife, while others may believe that the conflicts between people and wildlife are too great to allow recreation to continue.