

To Build or Not to Build Research Discoveries

Name _____ Date _____

Track your research by answering the following questions below. Use additional paper if necessary.

1) Describe the following in relation to the Mountain Gorilla: (Use additional paper if necessary.)

a. Habitat: _____

b. Status in the wild: _____

c. Diet: _____

d. Reproduction and Life cycle: _____

e. Threats: _____

2) Describe the following characteristics about the nations listed:

Rwanda:

a. Economic status: _____

b. Agricultural products: _____

c. Major industries: _____

d. Tourism: _____

Uganda:

e. Economic status: _____

f. Agricultural products: _____

g. Major industries: _____

h. Tourism: _____

3) List at least two things unique to each city listed below:

Kampala, Uganda:

a. _____

b. _____

Kigali, Rwanda:

a. _____

b. _____

4) Draw a map showing the countries of Uganda and Rwanda, where they are in relation to each other, and include the cities of Kampala and Kigali. (Use additional paper if necessary.)

The Rwandan Gazette

Citizens to Debate Friday on Road from Kampala to Kigali

The city council of Kigali will meet Friday afternoon to vote on a proposal to build a 45-kilometer highway connecting the city directly to Kampala. The present route between the cities is over 100 kilometers long.

"This new highway will make commerce between the two cities more profitable", said Rakotoarivo, the mayor of Kigali. "It will also open new areas for harvesting, ranching, and logging."

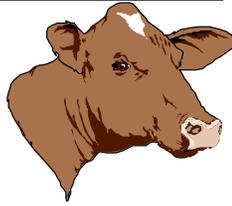
Citizens are invited to express their opinions at the meeting, and a vote of citizens attending the meeting will be taken. The votes of the citizens will be tallied, and a final decision will be made by the city council. The council members have the right to override the votes of the citizens if they think it is necessary for the good of the community.

Although local businessmen generally support the proposal, conservationists and some scientists oppose the building of the new road, since it would destroy eight square kilometers of rain forest. The forest is home to several endangered species, including the gorillas. Because of forest loss, there are currently fewer than 650 of these animals surviving in the wild, and scientists fear that they could soon become extinct in the wild.

*"How can they put the welfare of a gorilla over
the welfare of our local community?"*

Mayor Rakotoarivo claims that the conservationists are preventing progress. "How can they put the welfare of a gorilla over the welfare of our local community?" he asked. "We need to protect the people of Kigali, who need jobs so they can feed their children. I'm in favor of protecting the environment, but not when it stops progress."

Interest Groups



CATTLE RANCHER:

You have a good business selling beef from your ranch to people in Kampala, but you want your business to grow, and in order to grow you need to be able to sell your meat in Kigali. If the road is built, you will finally be able to truck your beef less expensively to Kigali. However, the road will also allow ranchers in Kigali to bring their beef to Kampala, so you must decide whether you can handle the competition.



CONSERVATIONIST:

As a conservationist, it is your job to save habitats and animals from extinction. However, you have only \$1,000 to spend protecting wildlife for the entire year, and you must carefully decide how to use it. If this road is built, the rain forest in your area will be destroyed and the mountain gorillas will be pushed closer to extinction. You must decide how much of your money you should spend on the gorillas, and how best to spend it. Your choices are a) fight the road and use the money for an educational program in local schools to teach students about the threat to the gorillas; b) allow the road and use the money for a pollution cleanup in the local river instead; c) fight the road and use the money to print posters that tell people about the gorillas and the forest that will be lost to the new highway.



CONSTRUCTION WORKERS:

There has been little work for construction workers recently, and you're very worried about how you will feed your family and send your children to school. If the road is built, you'll have a good job for perhaps two years. If the road is not built, there is no promise of immediate work. You have heard, however, that there are plans to build a bridge within the next year, and you might be able to get a job on that project.

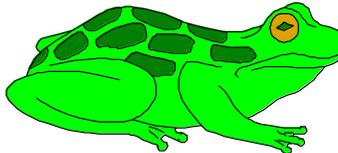


COUNCIL MEMBERS:

The people of Kampali voted for you in the last election because you promised to listen to their opinion and pass laws that would benefit them. You know that some people want this road, and some do not. You must listen to what your constituents want, and then make the final decision about whether the road will be built. You are free to express your own opinion and make a decision opposite to what most of the people want, but if you do that you might not win the next election.

**FARMER:**

Five years ago, you moved onto a small piece of land near Kampali that the government opened for settlement. You cut down the trees and burned them, then planted your crops. The first year, with very hard work, you grew enough food to feed your wife and seven children and even sell some extra food at the market. But each year since then, the crops have been worse because the soil has lost so many nutrients. Now you can't support your family on the land. If the road is built, you'll be able to reach new land in the forest and cut more trees to build another farm. But, you will find many new people moving into the area, crowding the local school and competing with you for the sale of your products at the market.

**FIELD BIOLOGIST:**

As a biologist, you know that the Atlantic rain forest- one of the most diverse habitats on earth- has almost disappeared. You also know that the area of forest that would be cut for the road is an especially important corridor for wildlife species, since it connects two nearby wildlife preserves. However, your brother works for a logging company. If you are too vocal about conserving the rain forest, your brother may be fired from his job.



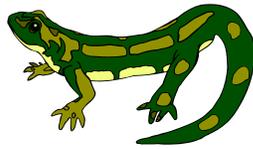
HERBAL HEALER:

For almost 50 years, you've gone into the forest to gather herbs, roots, flowers, bark, and fruits. You use them to treat various illnesses as your grandfathers taught you. Two years ago, a man from a large drug company came to ask you questions about the plants you use for healing. He paid you for your information, and had offered to pay you for samples of the plants you collect. The company will study them to make new medicines. If the road is built and the forest is cut, many of the plants you need for your work will disappear and people will lose the chance to get new medicines.



LOGGER:

If the road is built, it will open up large areas of forest from which you can log a great deal of timber. It will allow you to reach new places with less trouble and cost. If the road is built, you will be able to harvest lumber and transport it much more easily to both Kampala and Kigali. The only difficulty may be that the new road will bring in other people and businesses who may want to use the forested areas for their own purposes and compete with you.



PET DEALER:

You have been capturing black and white ruffed lemurs illegally and selling them as pets. Your best buyers are dealers overseas. If the road is built and the forest disturbed, the lemur may disappear. It would be very difficult for you to continue making a living from selling lemurs when there are fewer to be found. But if the road is built and the lemurs disappear, you might decide to try raising and selling the Madagascar Big-Headed Gecko. This animal is small and nocturnal which will make it a popular pet. Raising a Big-Headed Gecko may be very costly because you do not know much about geckos or what they will need to survive in captivity, or whether people will buy them.
