



Name:

Group:

Year 8 National Reading Test Homework 2

Fur in fashion

Progress has been made – fur farms were banned in the UK in 2003, and selling cat, dog and seal products is also illegal. But imported fur from other species, including fox, rabbit, mink, coyote, raccoon dog and chinchilla, is still allowed. And this week an investigation by Sky News found that supposedly “fake fur” products, including gloves, hats and shoes, at leading retailers actually contain real fur from cats, raccoon dogs, rabbits, mink and fox.

This discovery has upset shoppers who thought the fur they were buying was synthetic. Never mind the labels, they assumed the cheap price tags alone meant the fur couldn't be real. The shopper who sparked the investigation when she realised that the “faux fur” pom-poms on her pink stilettos were actually made from cat hair said the discovery was “really hurtful, really shocking”, because her “life is basically animals”.

But why would anyone who cares about animals want to wear fake fur? True, its fluffiness can have a certain sensual appeal, but the cruelty involved in producing the real thing is such a horrifying business, I wonder why an animal lover would want to be associated with it. Why connect yourself, even symbolically, to such barbarity?



Commercial fur often comes from China, where it's produced very cheaply, frequently due to ghastly conditions. The animals, who spend their whole lives in wire cages, often succumb to anxiety-induced psychosis, gnawing away at their own limbs and hurling themselves repeatedly against the cage bars. It's a horrific life all the way to the end. The animals are finally grabbed from their cages and bludgeoned or strangled to death – if they're lucky. Undercover investigators from Swiss Animal Protection/EAST International found that in many cases the more unfortunate ones were still alive as they were being skinned.

1. The following fur products are banned from being sold in the UK.

	True	False
Seal		
Mink		
Fox		
Cat		
Rabbit		
Dog		

2. In the second paragraph; Find and copy the phrase that implies fur is unkind and scary.

3. From the investigation by Sky News, what did they supposedly discover? Tick one.

Fake fur is cheap	
Fake fur products actually contain real fur	
Fake fur products are very expensive	
Fake fur smells like real fur	

4. The writer describes the condition in which fur is produced as ghastly. What are they trying to express? Tick one.

Terrible	
Sad	
Cold	
Dark	

5. The writer reports in the second paragraph that the shopper's "life is basically animals" What is the purpose of this comparison? Tick one

They have a lot of animals	
They care for all types of animals	
They are an animal	

6. Put ticks to show which statements are *true* and which are *false*

	True	False
The fluffiness of fur can have sensual appeal		
Synthetic fur comes from animals		
Commercial fur often comes from China		
Animals are humanly killed for their fur		