

Questioning as we learn: An introduction to critical thinking

Material for Higher Education students in Sierra Leone by INASP, UK



Provided by the Critical Thinking Taskforce (CTTF)
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Unit 4 - Snippet 90



Quiz

Read the following statements and decide whether they are facts or opinions. Try to apply what you have learned so far and state the reasons why you think the statement is a fact or an opinion. The answer key will be given in the next snippet.

Question 1

Tigers are territorial and generally solitary but social animals, often requiring large contiguous areas of habitat that support their prey requirements.

Is this a fact or an opinion?

Question 2

In a blog, we were told that many conservation experts have come to believe the following:

Given the continued decimation of tiger populations in the wild, the only way to ensure the species' long-term survival is to maintain and breed a stable population of captive tigers, with the hope of eventually releasing them back into the wild when conditions become more favourable.

Do the experts state a fact or express an opinion?

Question 3

Nelson Mandela describes in his book *Long Walk to Freedom* (Mandela, N. (1995). 'Long Walk to Freedom', Abacus, p. 511) that he and his fellow prisoners on Robben Island talked over and over again about whether or not there were tigers in Africa. Some of Mandela's fellow prisoners said that they have seen tigers in the jungles of Africa with their own eyes.

Do Mandela's fellow prisoners make a statement of fact or express an opinion?