

## Could animal documentaries replace zoos? (Primary & Secondary) 29<sup>th</sup> May 2020 – 05<sup>th</sup> Jun 2020

### Question Primary:

“Should we shut down zoos?”

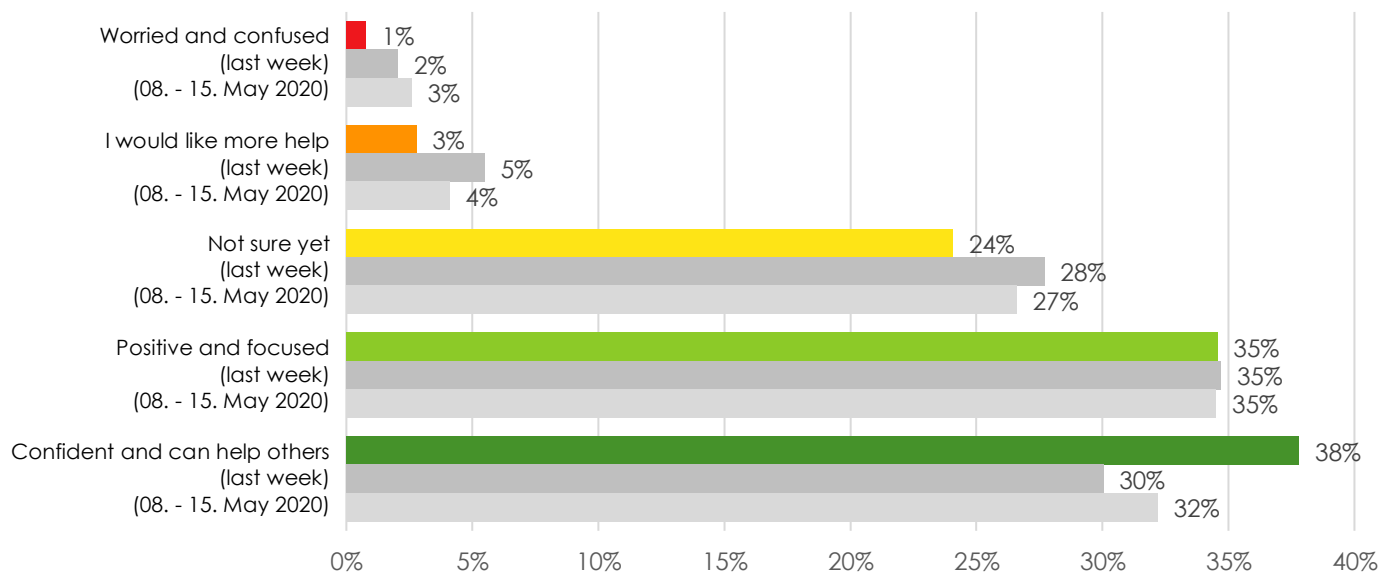
### Question Secondary:

“Could animal documentaries replace zoos?”

Due to the Coronavirus crisis, schools in the UK were mostly closed this week. As a result, students/pupils instead engaged with our content from home. While usually our votes are logged by teachers, we set up links for students/pupils and parents to vote independently. The response was overwhelming as many took the opportunity to have their voice heard from home.

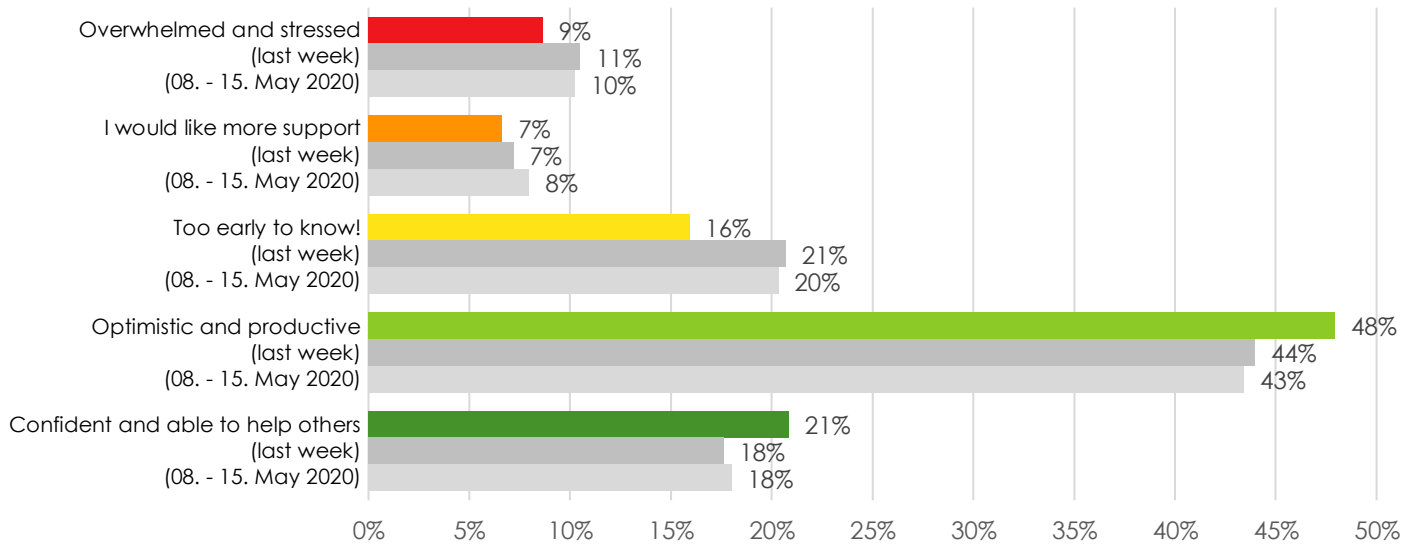
As part of our vote this week, we encouraged students to share how they were feeling about learning from home with us. Here is an insight into what they said:

### Primary





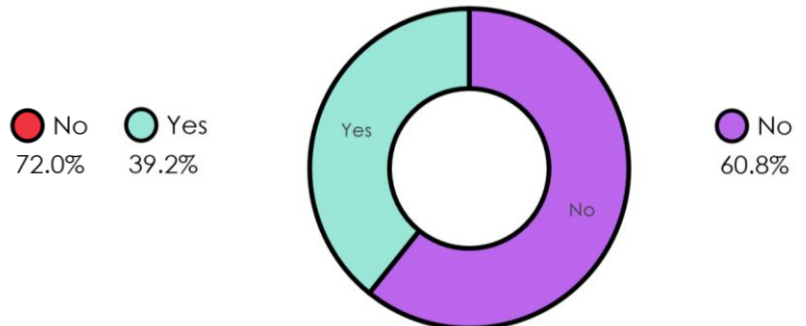
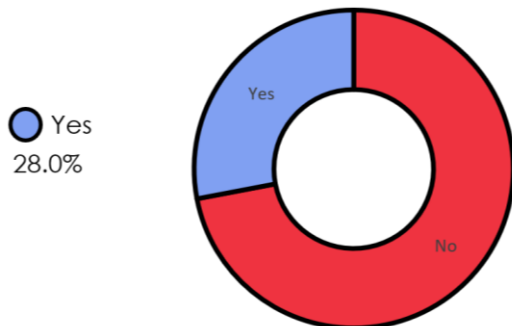
### Secondary



### Grand Total

Primary: Yes 28.00%  
No 72.00%

Secondary: Yes 39.23%  
No 60.77%



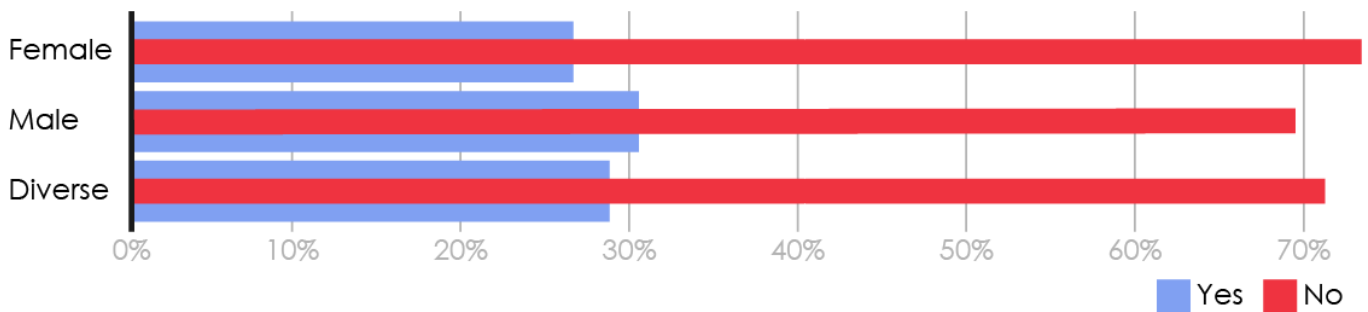
Primary pupils discussed the question "Should we shut down zoos?" and Secondary students debated the question "Could animal documentaries replace zoos?".

Both, Primary pupils, and Secondary students, tended more towards no, with 72% of Primary pupils voting No, we shouldn't shut down zoos and 60.8% of Secondary students voting No, animal documentaries could not replace zoos.

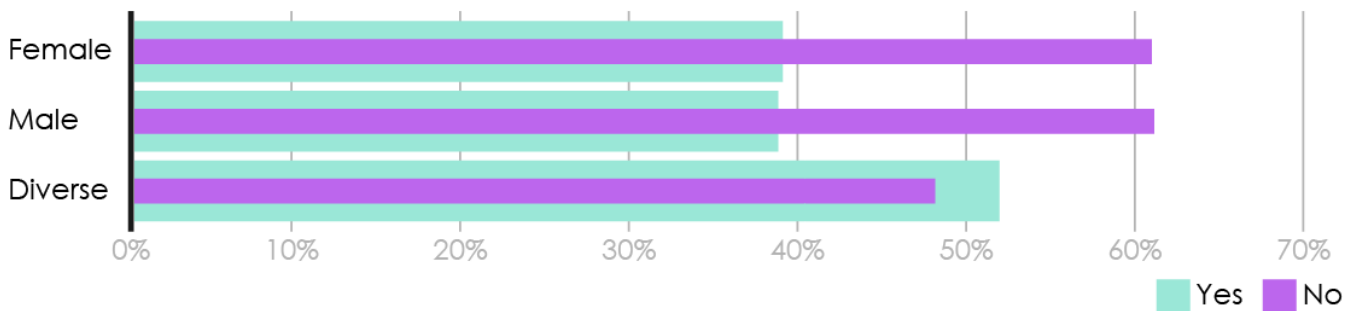


## Gender

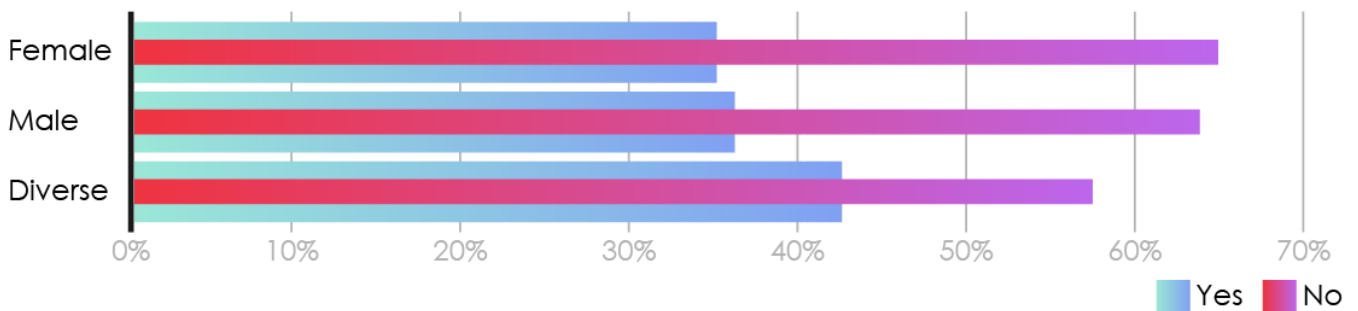
### Primary



### Secondary



### Primary & Secondary Combined



#### Primary:

	Yes %	No %
Female	26.41%	73.59%
Male	30.37%	69.63%
Diverse	28.57%	71.43%

Both in Primary and Secondary schools, **what female and male voters thought was very similar.**

#### Secondary:

	Yes %	No %
Female	38.93%	61.07%
Male	37.75%	62.25%
Diverse	51.92%	48.08%

In **Primary schools, female, male and gender diverse voters all thought No**, zoos shouldn't be shut down, with females having the largest percentage of No-Votes, followed by gender diverse students with 2.16% fewer No-Votes than females and males, with 3.96% fewer No-Votes than females.

#### Primary and Secondary Total:

	Yes %	No %
Female	35.02%	64.98%
Male	36.14%	63.86%
Diverse	42.53%	57.47%

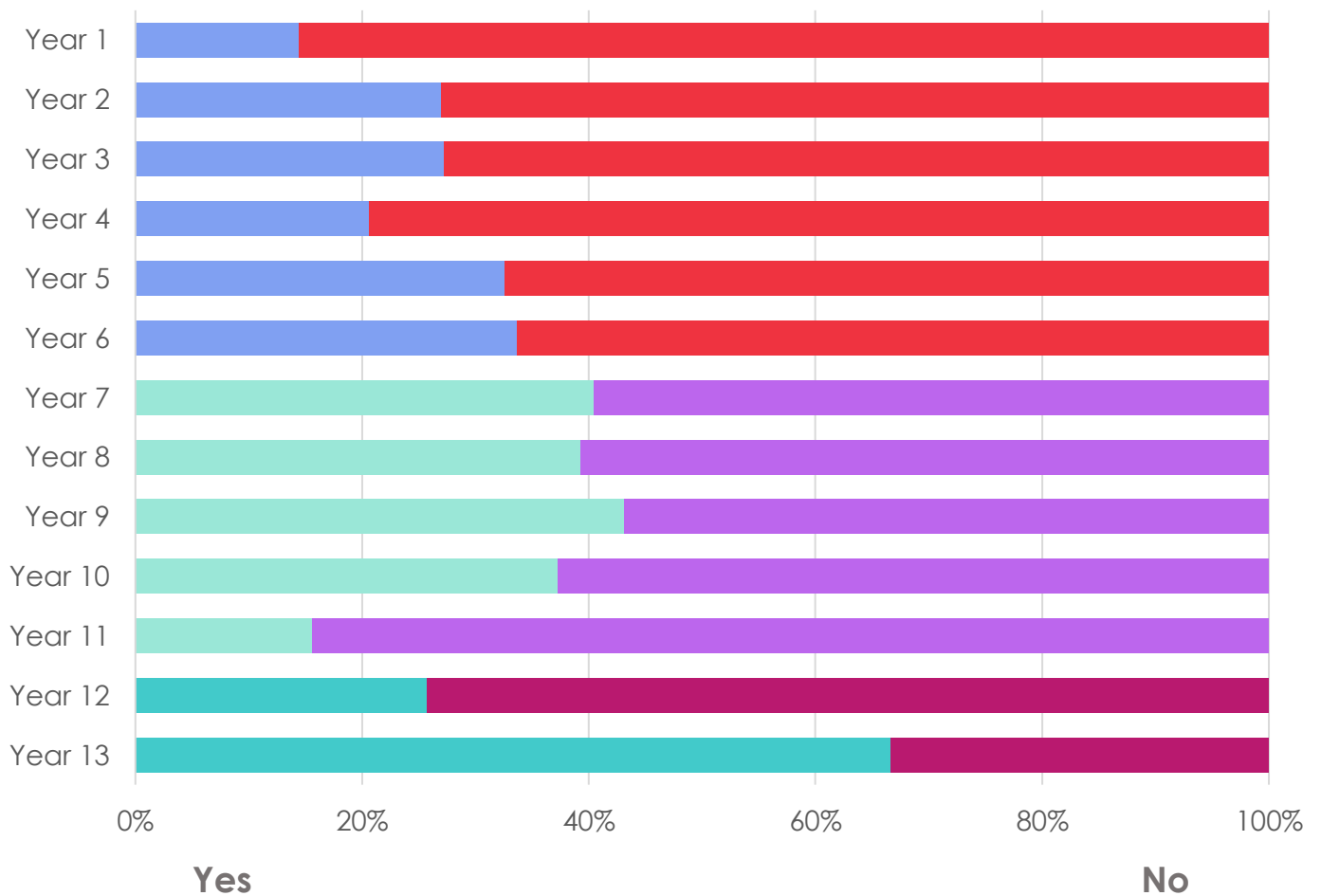
In **Secondary schools** the percentage of female and male voters that said No, animal documentaries could not replace zoos was almost identical. **Secondary gender diverse students showed the biggest difference to the average vote with the majority voting Yes.**



## Age

Year Group	Yes %	No %
1	14.44%	85.56%
2	27.01%	72.99%
3	27.24%	72.76%
4	20.60%	79.40%
5	32.65%	67.35%
6	33.68%	66.32%
7	40.45%	59.55%
8	39.26%	60.74%
9	43.12%	56.88%
10	37.31%	62.69%
11	15.60%	84.40%
12	25.71%	74.29%
13	66.67%	33%
Parent/Caregiver	20.00%	80.00%

Votes by Year Group





### Students' Comments:

"Animals can **live freely in the wild** and run around and have fun. I **wouldn't like living in cages and neither would they**. It is nicer to observe animals **on safari in real life or on YouTube.**"

Primary School, Surrey

"Keeping animals in cages does affect them in ways which aren't great. **There are better alternatives** then throwing an animal in an exhibit."

Primary School, Berkshire

"Some **animals live longer in the wild** and the wild is their natural habitat. Perhaps **zoos could be used to take care of endangered species and sick animals**, with a view to put them back in their homes once they are better. People could still visit the sick animals to raise money towards feeding them and making them better."

Primary School, Surrey

"Zoos should shut down as **removing animals from their natural habitat can cause distress** to the animals and the **animals can also get very bored** as they have to live in such a small place all the time and have nothing to do."

Primary School, Berkshire

"Humans are **changing animal's habitats** by bringing the into a zoo. **Imagine being stuck in a cage for the rest of your life!** Documentaries show the **real way an animal lives.**"

Secondary School, Essex

"The **animals were born to be in the wild** so if they're at zoos it's not really their home. They **won't really learn how to survive in the wild on their own**, because in zoos, they give them their food. In the wild they would have to hunt for their food or pick their food."

Primary School, Surrey

"Seeing animals in their **natural habitat** is much more **educational and authentic** than seeing them locked in a cage."

Secondary School, London

"**Zoos can be cruel** and it is not our place to change their home. I understand the opposite argument but I believe that **it is safer to do a documentary** to see how animals really act."

Secondary School, London

"Animal documentaries should replace zoos as they are more educational and are easier to come by. Also, it is **much better if we see them in their natural habitats**, free to roam where they feel, than to watch them in a cage, unable to go anywhere else. Despite this, **many children tend to find documentaries 'boring'** because they don't have the chance to pet the animals or feed them. In conclusion, I still think that **they should replace Zoos with Documentaries due to the educational value of them.**"

Secondary School, Essex



"If we keep the animals in the wild then they are **more likely to die of hunger and be shot by a human being**. Also, it **gives people the chance to see animals** without having to go into the wild."

Primary School, Merseyside

"It's not nice for animals to be in a cage but **they are safer there**. But **some animals should not be in the zoo, like orcas**."

Primary School, London

"If we shut down zoos, **less animals could be bred**, and we would not be able to care for the animals if they were ill. Also, **children would not be able to have fun whilst learning** about these amazing animals."

Primary School, West Midlands

"Animals are **kept safe and fed and looked after**. I love to visit animals and learn about them, but it is **sad that some big animals are kept in small cages**."

Primary School, Oxfordshire

If you go to a zoo there's **more of an experience** of seeing them in person, and it's **better than seeing it on a screen**."

Secondary School, West Sussex

"The reason why we have zoos is so we can **keep the animals safe from extinction** because there is hardly any left."

Secondary School, South Yorkshire

"We need both, **zoos offer more chance for the animals not to go extinct** but documentary offer us to see what they do and have a better understanding of what animals do to help the environment."

Secondary School, Northamptonshire

"While documentaries do provide the same information as zoos do, **it's not the same**. First of all, actually **seeing the animal first-hand is more interesting and more fun** than watching documentaries on your TV. Experiencing it in person also allows you to learn about those animals better. Furthermore, **it is easier to convince zoos for better treatment of animals rather than replacing them entirely**, and even if they were replaced, it **would probably be replaced by animal sanctuaries and reserves, rather than animal documentaries**. In addition, **zoos have preserved many species of animals** that may have gone extinct by now if it wasn't for zoos."

Secondary School, Essex