

Worksheet A

Countryside protest in London

Speaking

1. Where would you prefer to live – in the city or in the countryside? Why?

2. How are they different in terms of the way of life?

Think about...

Jobs

Transport

Health care

Leisure activities

Traditions / customs

3. What problems do people in the countryside face?

4. Are there demonstrations and protests in your country?

5. What kind of things do people demonstrate about?

Workers' rights

Student funding

War

Religion

Politics

Human rights

Salaries and jobs

Environmental issues

Vocabulary

6. Check these words in your dictionary, are they nouns or verbs, or both?

	Noun	Verb	Prepositions with verb?	Meaning(s)
Protest				
March				
Demonstrate				
Campaign				

Text

Countryside protest in London

On Saturday, London was brought to **a standstill** by the largest ever protest demonstration that Britain has seen. More than 400,000 people took to the streets in the name of the Countryside Alliance in order to demonstrate against what they see as the government's **mishandling** of rural affairs. The demonstration march lasted for over 7 hours and it is being **hailed as a huge success** by those involved.

The Countryside Alliance is campaigning about several different **issues**, but fox hunting is one of the most important for them. The government plans **to ban** fox hunting with dogs and the members of the Countryside Alliance see this as a direct attack on their way of life and traditions.

The protest involved people from all over the country and from all walks of life, from farmers to **stable** owners, from fishing **enthusiasts** to members of fox hunts. Besides fox hunting, they were campaigning for better transport, more doctors and hospitals and more support for farmers. The latter have been struggling since the twin **blows** of BSE and foot and mouth disease.

The government responded to the march by saying that already farming is heavily subsidised, and that they are making efforts to improve transport and health care in **rural areas**.

There was also a small counter demonstration held by the League against Cruel Sports who claim that it is **cruel**, unnecessary and morally wrong to hunt foxes for sport.

Worksheet B

Countryside protest in London

Reading

1. Read the news story and find out ...
...who was protesting and what they were protesting about.

2. Are the following sentences true or false?
 1. The march was one of the biggest marches ever in Britain.
 2. The marchers think the government is doing a good job for the countryside.
 3. The government wants to stop fox hunting with dogs.
 4. The marchers were all very similar people.
 5. The marchers were demonstrating about 4 different things.
 6. Farmers have suffered from three different problems.
 7. The government already gives farmers a lot of money and support.
 8. The League Against Cruel Sports supports the Countryside Alliance.

Speaking – giving opinions

3. Fox hunting with dogs

This involves a group of people who are on horses and they have a large group of dogs. The dogs are trained to chase foxes.

Foxes are a type of wild dog, they are red and have large tails. They can kill sheep and chickens.

In a fox hunt, the people and dogs try to find a fox. Then they chase it until the dogs catch it. This may take several hours. The dogs attack and kill the fox.

The hunters say fox hunting is a popular traditional country activity, that the number of foxes needs to be controlled and that the fox does not suffer too much.

People who are against fox hunting say it is wrong to make killing any animal into a sport or social activity, and, that the fox suffers very much.

What is your opinion of this sport?

Worksheet C

Countryside protest in London

Match the words with their definitions. Use the text to help you.

a standstill

people who like something very much

mishandling

when something stops completely

hailed as a huge success

to stop something officially, by law

issues

things which cause damage or problems

to ban

important subject under discussion

stable

dealing badly or with something

enthusiasts

said to be very good

blows

the opposite of kind

rural areas

a building in which horses are kept

cruel

parts of the countryside