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Opposing Viewpoints in Context

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Conservation
The Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation team rescues a sea turtle washed ashore in Florida after becoming sick in a red tide that has plagued the southwest gulf coast since October 2017. The harmful blooms have caused an unprecedented mass mortality of aquatic life and economic hardship in the region.

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Hunting refers to the tracking, trapping, or killing of wild animals. Though some people hunt for food, hunting in the United States is mainly a recreational activity regulated by laws governing which species of animals can be hunted as well as when those animals can be taken. Hunting can also help balance ecosystems, particularly in cases where the population of prey animals has grown beyond sustainable levels with few natural predators, resulting in imbalances in food supply and overpopulation. However, opponents of hunting frequently argue that the practice is inhumane and can upset ecosystems by disturbing the balance between the relative populations of predator animals and prey animals. They also cite significant accident and injury risks, which can affect both...
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Opposing Viewpoints in Context Printing Tutorial
Hunting Is a Natural, Ethical, and Healthy Undertaking

Hunting, 2008.
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From Opposing Viewpoints In Context.

Full Text:

Article Commentary

"Hunting in and of itself is not immoral, unethical, or illegal; it is not only natural and healthful; it’s an inextricable part of our heritage as human beings."

Ward M. Clark is a hunter, lecturer, and author of several nonfiction and fiction books. In this viewpoint, Clark discusses the reasons that modern humans hunt. Clark links historical and modern justifications for hunting to the larger view of hunting, which connects predator to prey and man to nature.

As you read, consider the following questions:

- What human factors are key for hunting in the wild?

Table of Contents
- Man as Predator
- Why Modern Man Hunts
- A Tie to Nature
- A Link to the Past

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Hunting Is a Natural, Ethical, and Healthy Undertaking

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"Hunting is an activity that requires no justification. The hunt is not only natural and healthful, it's an inevitable part of our heritage as human beings."

3. Which characteristic of modern urban life does Clark assert results in a disconnect between humans and nature?

Modern hunters seem to find that they are answering the question "why hunt?" frequently. Sometimes the question is put by the genuinely curious, sometimes it is a hostile demand for justification. In the first case, the answer is simple—it is because it suits us to do so. Hunting is an activity that requires no justification. The hunt is not only natural and healthful, it's an inevitable part of our heritage as human beings.

Man as Predator

Man is and has long been a terminal predator, as marvelously equipped for hunting by our intellect as a lion is by his claws and fangs, as a wolf by his swiftness and peak instinct. No matter whether humans today hunt directly, or employ middlemen to prepare their prey for them on farms and meat packing plants, the fact of our status as predator is in our very DNA. We owe the very fact of our world-conquering intellect on the hunt, on the stimulus that drove us to overcome the handicap of our clawless, fang-toothed bodies, to develop weapons to match the teeth of the greatest animal predators: we owe our great brains to the access to high-quality diets of meat, marrow, and fat that predatory behaviour allowed.

But, the question remains nonetheless. Why? How do we hunt?

Why Modern Man Hunts

Some hunt for the meat. A good reason in itself, game meat is lean, healthy, and free from additives; the process of obtaining it provides exercise and time in the outdoors, away from work pressures and the

But, the question remains nonetheless. Why, now, do we hunt?
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“Hunting in and of itself requires no justification as being natural and healthful; it’s an inextricable part of our heritage as human beings.”

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As you read, consider the following questions:

1. What human factors are important for hunting in the modern age?
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