

Poem “Natural Numbers”

1. Prediction activity. You are going to read a poem titled “Natural Numbers”. What do you think it is going to be about?

2. Pre-teaching vocabulary activity. Match words with the definitions:

Poacher
elephant tusks are made of it
cutting trees in forests

Ivory
logging
illegal hunter



3. Post-reading vocabulary activity. Look at these definitions for the word ‘greedy’. How many different meanings does it have? Is any of these connected with the poem?

greedy adjective -dier, -diest

- 1 (for food, drink) person/animal glotón, angurriento.
- 2 (for power, wealth) **to be greedy for something** tener* ansias or estar* ávido de algo; **greedy speculators** especuladores masculine plural rapaces

4. Post-reading oral practice

a) How do you think the speaker in the poem feels about the events which are reported in the poem? Choose some of the adjectives below or think of some others:

satisfied horrified depressed guilty angry calm tormented ashamed

b) In groups or pairs, think of a list of things we can do to protect our environment.

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Poem: “Natural Numbers” by, in *The Works 2. Poems on Every Subject and for Every Occasion*. Eds. B. Moses and P. Cobbet. Macmillan, 2002.
Dictionary entry: *Gran Diccionario Oxford*, 3rd edition.

