

Herd of goats takes over deserted resort in Britain amid lockdown

By The World, adapted by Newsela staff on 04.15.20

Word Count **549**

Level **570L**



Image 1. Mountain goats roam the streets of Llandudno, Wales, on March 31, 2020. The goats normally live on the rocky Great Orme but are occasional visitors to the seaside town. A local councillor said the herd was drawn this time by the lack of people and tourists due to the COVID-19 outbreak and quarantine measures. Photo: Christopher Furlong/Getty Images

A herd of Kashmir goats invaded a small town in Wales. The town of Llandudno, Wales, sits on the coast of the Irish Sea. The spread of the coronavirus has forced everyone to stay inside. This has left the town's streets deserted.

The coronavirus is a new illness. Scientists have not seen it before. It started in December 2019. It has now spread across the globe. There is no treatment for it yet. People around the world are practicing social distancing. It helps slow the spread of the virus. Social distancing means staying at home. It also means keeping 6 feet apart from other people in public.

The goats normally roam free on nearby land. For three days at the end of March, they wandered into Llandudno. They ate garden hedges and flowers.

The country of Wales is part of the United Kingdom, which is called the U.K., for short. Like many countries, the U.K. is affected by the coronavirus. The country has strict rules for social

distancing. Shops and schools are closed. The government is asking everyone to stay home except for necessary travel.

The streets of Llandudno have been very quiet. The goats wandered around unbothered.

The Goats Don't Like People

Andrew Stuart lives in Llandudno and makes videos for his job. He said the goats roam around town. They try to avoid people who try to take photos of them.

"You're not going to come close to them. They don't like you," Stuart said. "Because of the lockdown, there are no people, no cars, no noise. There's nothing to stop them. So they are just exploring places which they haven't explored before."

Carol Marubbi is a local leader in town. She said that before, the goats did not normally come into town unless the weather was bad. Now there are so few people around. They probably realized something unusual was going on, she said.

"I think they're probably feeling a bit lonely, so they have come to look around," Marubbi said.

Kashmir goats have lived near Llandudno for almost 200 years. The animals became popular in Britain because of their soft cashmere wool. People made clothing wraps out of it.



Goats Are A Hit On Social Media

The herd has about 150 goats. They are a well-known local attraction. Most people did not mind them eating their hedges, Marubbi said.

"I'm a big fan," she said. "I love them because they are characters."

Millions of people are stuck at home now. Many are sharing funny content online to lessen the boredom of being at home. Images and video of the goats were a big hit on social media.

Stuart has been filming and taking photos of the goats. His Twitter posts are very popular. He said he is known as the man who stares at goats. He says this event has made the lockdown unforgettable.

"I thought about what could possibly come out of lockdown? What's going to happen? I did not think that this would happen. I don't think anyone could have guessed this," Stuart said. "It's just so weird and bizarre and really funny at the same time."

Quiz

1 Read the paragraph below from the section "The Goats Don't Like People."

Carol Marubbi is a local leader in town. She said that before, the goats did not normally come into town unless the weather was bad. Now there are so few people around. They probably realized something unusual was going on, she said.

Which question is answered by this paragraph?

- (A) How did the goats find the way into the town?
- (B) How did the goats act differently before now?
- (C) Why does Carol Marubbi want to be a local leader?
- (D) Why does Carol Marubbi think there are few people?

2 Which sentence from the article explains WHEN the goats took over the streets of Llandudno because of the lockdown?

- (A) It started in December 2019.
- (B) For three days at the end of March, they wandered into Llandudno.
- (C) Kashmir goats have lived near Llandudno for almost 200 years.
- (D) He says this event has made the lockdown unforgettable.

3 Read the selection below from the Introduction [paragraphs 1-5].

The spread of the coronavirus has forced everyone to stay inside. This has left the town's streets deserted.

Which word could replace "deserted" in the sentence above WITHOUT changing the meaning of the sentence?

- (A) needed
- (B) paved
- (C) empty
- (D) dusty

4 Read the selection below from the section "Goats Are A Hit On Social Media."

Many are sharing funny content online to lessen the boredom of being at home. Images and video of the goats were a big hit on social media.

What does the phrase "a big hit" mean?

- (A) something that is popular and liked
- (B) something that costs a lot of money
- (C) something that takes a lot of work
- (D) something that is dark and scary

Answer Key

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