

## Reading

### TROPHY HUNTING

#### *The Thrill of the Kill*

1. When athletes win big games or races, they receive a **trophy** or a medal. Some hunters use their skills for sport, too. Trophy hunting involves killing large or **exotic** wild animals for the sake of a **thrill**. Instead of using the meat for food, these hunters bring home part of the animal as a prize. They place the animal's head, horns, **tusks**, or pelt on display. The trophy acts as proof of their hunting skills, bravery, and wealth.
2. Trophy hunting is not a cheap sport. Hunters around the world pay tens of thousands of dollars for **permits** to hunt exotic **game**. Africa is one of the most common destinations for trophy hunters. The "African Big Five" are elephants, leopards, rhinoceroses, buffaloes, and lions. Trophy hunting also takes place in other parts of the world. In North America, people get a thrill from hunting grizzly bears. In Iran, foreigners hunt a rare breed of curly-horned mountain sheep.
3. In some countries, importing an animal trophy is illegal. Foreign hunters often have guides or friends take their photograph after a hunt. If you search for trophy hunting images online, you will see hunters **posing** proudly beside their kills. Many trophy hunters arrange hunts with illegal guides and outfitters. The more endangered the animal, the greater the thrill.
4. While animal lovers consider this sport **unethical**, trophy hunters call it *ecotourism*. Some hunters claim their sport puts an economic value on rare animals, which they say helps **conservation** efforts. Animal lovers and environmentalists strongly disagree with this argument. Even though trophy hunting is a **booming** business, more money can be made from tourists who photograph exotic animals than from the onetime fees for hunting permits.