

Influencer Puts Isolated Island Tribe in Danger

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A 24-year-old man from the US was arrested after going to North Sentinel Island, which is a protected area in the Indian Ocean. This island is home to a tribe who have lived there for thousands of years. They do not want contact with the outside world and shoot arrows at strangers to kill them. The Indian government has made it illegal for anyone to go within five kilometers of the island to protect the tribe.



The American man used a boat to get close to the island and blew a whistle to try to get the tribe's attention. He went on the island for about five minutes, left a coconut and a can of Coca-Cola, and recorded a video.

This visit was very dangerous. The tribe have no protection from common diseases like measles or the flu, so even a short visit from an outsider could cause many deaths. Influencers using social media to get attention could put the lives of the people in great danger.

The people on the island live in small groups and survive by hunting and gathering food. Experts believe there are maybe 200 of them, but no one knows for sure because they avoid contact.

This isn't the first time someone has tried to meet the tribe. In 2018, an American man came to the island to spread Christianity. He paid a fisherman to take him there. He was killed by the tribe after he tried to land on the island.

Comprehension Questions:

1. The man was arrested for visiting the island. What does "arrested" mean?
 - a) The man was left alone.
 - b) The man was put in jail.
 - c) The man was given a reward.
 - d) The man was told to go to a different island instead.
2. Why is it dangerous for outsiders to visit North Sentinel Island?
 - a) The island has poisonous animals.
 - b) The weather on the island is too hot.
 - c) The people on the island could get very sick.
 - d) The island is full of sharp rocks.
3. Why does the tribe shoot arrows at strangers?
 - a) To hunt animals on the boat.
 - b) They think arrows will bring good luck.
 - c) They are trying to communicate with visitors.
 - d) They are afraid of them and want to protect themselves.

4. What would probably happen if more people visited the island?
- The tribe would become rich by trading with tourists.
 - Many tribe members could get sick and die.
 - The Indian government would make the island a tourist attraction.
 - The tribe would start YouTube and TikTok accounts to become famous.
5. Why did the Indian government make it illegal to go near the island?
- To keep the tribe's location a secret.
 - To stop the tribe from leaving the island.
 - To encourage scientists to study the tribe.
 - To protect the tribe from outside dangers.
6. What does the tribe's reaction to outsiders tell us about them?
- They enjoy meeting new people.
 - They want to learn about modern technology.
 - They prefer to live without outside contact.
 - They are planning to leave the island soon.
7. What is the best way to protect the Sentinelese tribe?
- Sending doctors to give them medicine.
 - Making sure no one goes near the island.
 - Teaching them about modern technology.
 - Building a bridge so they can leave the island.
8. Which of these statements is false?
- The Indian government allows tourists to visit the island if they bring gifts.
 - The Sentinelese tribe has lived on the island for thousands of years.
 - Outsiders can spread deadly diseases to the tribe.
 - The tribe uses arrows to defend themselves from strangers.
9. What can we guess about the man's goals in visiting the island?
- He wanted to study animals.
 - He hoped to become famous or get attention.
 - He was lost and needed help.
 - He wanted to sell something to the tribe.
10. What is the main idea of the article?
- A man broke the law by visiting a protected island, risking the lives of the tribe who lives there.
 - Tourists should visit North Sentinel Island to learn about Indigenous cultures.
 - The Indian government encourages people to explore North Sentinel Island.
 - The Sentinelese tribe welcomes visitors and wants to meet them.

Speaking and Writing Activities:

- Discuss these questions with a partner or a small group
 - Choose one topic and write a response to it. Show your writing to a classmate or teacher.
1. How do you think the Sentinelese tribe feels when they see strangers approaching their island?
 2. Do you think isolated tribes like the Sentinelese should be left alone forever? Explain your answer.
 3. Could you survive on an island like the Sentinelese? What skills would you need?