

Name: _____

NEIGHBORS AT ODDS

In “Monkey Trouble” (p. 20), you learned about conflicts between baboons and people in Cape Town, South Africa. Baboons aren’t the only animals running into trouble with people. Read the information in the table below to learn about problems that can occur when other animals become neighbors with humans. Then complete the directions that follow.

Human-Animal Conflicts

ANIMAL	CONFLICTS
<p>Black Bear</p>	<p>Throughout much of North America, black bears have lost their fear of humans—and developed a taste for trash. These big, furry animals can give people quite a scare when they show up in backyards looking for food. Black bears are most often seen in residential areas in the early spring, when the roots, berries, small fish, and mammals that make up bears’ usual diet are scarce. People often unintentionally provide the bears with easy-to-find food such as birdseed, pet food left outside, or garbage that is not stored securely.</p>
<p>Leopard</p>	<p>Imagine walking home at night and finding a leopard on your street. These big cats generally avoid humans, but they have been responsible for more than 175 attacks on residents in Mumbai, India, over the past 25 years. The leopards live mainly in a large national park in the middle of the city. They feed on rodents, wild boars, and dogs. Leopards can be attracted to residential areas by stray dogs that feed on garbage in the streets. Many people have also built illegal settlements inside the park itself.</p>
<p>Mountain Lion</p>	<p>Hollywood is usually known for its celebrities. But recently, a few rare mountain lions have made headlines by appearing in and around Los Angeles, California. Mountain lions usually live where there are deer to hunt. The cats are solitary animals and generally avoid humans. They are most active between dusk and dawn. But mountain lions can travel as far as 320 kilometers (200 miles) in search of food. As human development spreads into lion territory, negative interactions have increased. For example, the big cats have been known to kill pets and livestock.</p>

DIRECTIONS

Choose one of the animals in the chart above. Brainstorm two different solutions to prevent conflicts between people and the animals. Consider what you learned about the measures officials are using in Cape Town. On a separate piece of paper, describe your solutions and explain how they would help to minimize conflicts with people while also protecting the wild animals.