NEWS LESSON

The People Who Want to Be Left Alone



BEFORE YOU READ

1 Warm up

Talk about these questions with a partner.

1. Would you want strangers visiting your home because they had seen a video of it?
2. Can a travel video show respect for a place?
3. When does sharing a place online change it?

2 Key words

These words are in the article. Write the letter of the meaning (A to H) in each box.

1	**Indigenous**	☐	A	not visited or spoken to by people from outside
2	**community**	☐	B	people who are not part of a group or place
3	**isolated**	☐	C	far away from other people or places
4	**uncontacted**	☐	D	treating someone with care because you think they matter
5	**advertising**	☐	E	people who make videos to share online
6	**creators**	☐	F	belonging to the first people who lived in a place
7	**respect**	☐	G	a group of people who live in the same place
8	**outsiders**	☐	H	telling people about things they can buy

3 Read

Read the article and underline the key words from task 2. The paragraphs are numbered.

Some people try to film communities that want to be left alone. Why can this be so dangerous?

1 In March 2025, an American traveller called Mykhailo Polyakov travelled by small boat towards North Sentinel Island in the Indian Ocean. He carried a camera and gifts, including a coconut and a can of Diet Coke. His plan was to visit and film a community that has very little contact with the outside world. The trip ended with his arrest by Indian police.

2 North Sentinel Island is home to the Sentinelese, an Indigenous community that has lived separately from most other people for generations. They do not welcome visitors, and Indian law keeps outsiders out. Outsiders are not allowed to travel there without permission. Polyakov reached the shore and tried to attract attention, but he did not come across any of the island's residents before leaving.

3 The main concern is not simply that someone broke a rule. Contact can be dangerous for isolated communities because they may have little protection against illnesses carried by visitors. Even an ordinary infection can have terrible results. There is also an important question of respect. The Sentinelese have made it clear that they do not want contact with strangers. They have the right to refuse visitors, and that choice should be respected.

4 Some social media creators want to make videos of places that other people cannot easily visit. Rare footage can pull in millions of views, new followers and advertising money. But an interesting video is not always a good reason to enter somebody else's home or community. Survival International, an organisation working for Indigenous rights, says that there are almost 200 uncontacted groups around the world, many living in remote forests. Uncontacted does not mean they know nothing about the outside world. Many have chosen to avoid contact.

5 Not every film about Indigenous people is harmful. Some communities choose to welcome visitors and work with filmmakers. In those cases, people can give permission and tell their own stories. North Sentinel Island is different because its inhabitants have refused contact. Technology makes it possible to travel further and film more than ever before, but it does not give people the right to go everywhere. Sometimes respecting others means accepting that they do not want to be seen.

Sources: The Guardian. Picture: AI illustration.

4 True, false or not given

Circle **T** (true), **F** (false) or **NG** (the article does not say).

1. Survival International says there are almost 200 uncontacted groups. T F NG
2. Polyakov was later fined by an Indian court. T F NG
3. He met and filmed several Sentinelese people. T F NG
4. Polyakov was arrested by Indian police. T F NG
5. The writer says that every film about Indigenous people is harmful. T F NG

5 Vocabulary

Complete the sentences with words from the box. Two words are not needed.

audience	followers	footage	infection	journey	permission	protection

1. You must get written _____ from the owner before you film inside a private building.
2. A cold is a common _____ that spreads easily between people.
3. The police asked the journalist to delete the _____ he had recorded.
4. Warm clothes give good _____ against the cold.
5. Her new videos gained thousands of _____ in a week.

6 Verb forms

Write the correct form of the verb in brackets.

1. In March 2025, Mykhailo Polyakov _____ by small boat towards the island. (TRAVEL)
2. North Sentinel Island is home to a community that _____ separately from most other people for generations. (LIVE)
3. Outsiders are not _____ to land on the island. (ALLOW)
4. Yesterday I _____ an article about remote communities and then told my sister. (READ)
5. Some communities choose _____ visitors and work with filmmakers. (WELCOME)

7 Language focus: prepositions

Complete the sentences with words from the box. Two words are not needed. Some verbs and adjectives always take one small word after them. Learn the pair together, for example 'different from'.

at	by	from	in	of	on	to

1. Many creators travel _____ boat to reach places that are hard to visit.
2. The film was recorded _____ the middle of the night.
3. Many isolated communities live far _____ big towns.
4. Strangers can be dangerous _____ a small community.
5. Some visitors are not aware _____ the risks they bring.

SPEAK

8 Talk about it

Discuss in pairs or small groups. Give reasons for your answers.

1. Who should decide whether a small community welcomes visitors?
2. Does asking one person's permission make it fair to film everyone?
3. What should a creator leave out even if it would get more views?

9 Role-play: should we share this video?

Work in pairs. Read your card, then have the conversation. Swap roles and do it again.

Student A · the friend who found the video

You found a video online of a visit to a remote community that does not want visitors. You think it is interesting and want to share it. Explain why, and listen to your friend's worries.

Student B · the friend who is not sure

You think the video may not be respectful. Ask where it came from and who agreed to it. Say what you would prefer to share instead. Try to agree on a decision.

Useful phrases

I'm not sure we should share this.

I can see why it's interesting, but they didn't ask to be filmed.

What if the community doesn't want to be seen?

I'd rather check the source first.

We could share an article about their rights instead.

Let's agree to disagree.

Afterwards, tell the class: did you share the video, and what was your main reason?

ANSWER KEY

2 Key words

1 F · 2 G · 3 C · 4 A · 5 H · 6 E · 7 D · 8 B

4 True, false or not given

1 T · 2 NG · 3 F · 4 T · 5 F

5 Vocabulary

1 permission · 2 infection · 3 footage · 4 protection · 5 followers

6 Verb forms

1 travelled · 2 has lived · 3 allowed · 4 read · 5 to welcome

7 Language focus

1 by · 2 in · 3 from · 4 to · 5 of

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