NEWS LESSON

Filming the People Who Do Not Want to Be Found



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	**archipelago**	☐	A	the people who live in a place
2	**inhabitants**	☐	B	a group of small islands
3	**restricts**	☐	C	limits what people are allowed to do
4	**encounter**	☐	D	not yet visited or spoken to by outsiders
5	**uncontacted**	☐	E	a meeting, especially one that you did not plan
6	**consequences**	☐	F	a line or limit that should not be crossed
7	**boundary**	☐	G	the results of something, often bad ones
8	**revenue**	☐	H	money that a person or company earns

3 Read

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

A traveller landed on a forbidden island with a camera and a can of Diet Coke. The risk he took was not only his own.

1 When American traveller Mykhailo Polyakov set off towards North Sentinel Island in March 2025, he took a small inflatable boat, a camera and several gifts, including a coconut and a can of Diet Coke. His aim was to reach one of the world's most isolated Indigenous communities and record his visit. He managed to land on the island, but did not meet any of its inhabitants. The trip ended with his arrest by Indian authorities.

2 The Sentinelese live on a small forested island in the Andaman archipelago and have repeatedly resisted contact with outsiders. Indian law restricts access to protect the community, whose members may be especially vulnerable to infectious diseases introduced by visitors. Polyakov attempted to attract attention before leaving, but the absence of any encounter does not make the visit harmless. It placed the island's inhabitants at risk without their agreement.

3 The incident forms part of a wider debate about the lengths some adventurers and content creators will go to for extraordinary footage. Remote locations offer an obvious attraction in an online world where familiar images are everywhere. A video that appears to show people living beyond modern civilisation may gain millions of views and attract followers or advertising revenue. But the search for something exclusive can make other people's privacy seem less important than a creator's ambition.

4 Survival International, an Indigenous rights organisation, estimates that 196 uncontacted groups exist worldwide. Many have chosen to keep away from outsiders after earlier experiences of violence, land loss or disease. Writing off such communities as unaware of the modern world can be misleading. In some cases, refusing contact is an informed decision about how to protect their people and way of life.

5 There is an important difference between filming a community that has agreed to welcome visitors and trying to reach one that has repeatedly rejected them. Some Indigenous groups work with documentary-makers, invite carefully managed tourism and use their own media to campaign for land rights. Such projects can give communities greater control over how their stories are told. Uninvited expeditions offer no similar choice, and visitors may underestimate the consequences of even a brief encounter.

6 Supporters of exploration sometimes argue that the public has an interest in learning about remote societies. Curiosity can certainly encourage understanding, but it does not automatically create a right to enter another community's territory. Polyakov's case highlights a difficult boundary in the age of social media. Cameras and boats can take people to places that once seemed unreachable. Respecting a community's wishes may require steering clear of the island and leaving the camera switched off.

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. The writer says that the lack of an encounter means no harm was done. T F NG
2. Polyakov posted footage of his trip online. T F NG
3. Some uncontacted groups avoid outsiders because of things that happened to them in the past. T F NG
4. According to the text, Indigenous groups that work with filmmakers lose control of their stories. T F NG
5. The writer treats a visit by invitation differently from an uninvited expedition. T F NG

5 Vocabulary

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

brief	exclusive	extraordinary	gradual	grateful	harmless	informed	vulnerable

1. Very old and very young patients are often more _____ to the effects of extreme heat.
2. The old dog looked frightening, but it was completely _____ .
3. The club is so _____ that only invited guests can ever join.
4. Her calm courage during the storm was truly _____ .
5. Having read the contract carefully, she gave her _____ consent.
6. He kept the call _____ , as he was late for work.

6 Verb forms

Write the correct form of the verb in brackets.

1. By the time the police arrived, the traveller _____ the shore. (LEAVE)
2. Visits to the island _____ by Indian law for many years. (CONTROL)
3. If the video had not gone viral, nobody _____ of the trip. (HEAR)
4. A tourist _____ the sunset when his phone battery died. (FILM)
5. Respecting a community's wishes means _____ away from its land. (STAY)

7 Language focus: prepositions

Complete the sentences with words from the box. Two words are not needed. Verbs, adjectives and nouns often need one fixed preposition. Learn them as a pair, such as 'result in'.

at	for	from	in	of	on	to

1. Creators are responsible _____ the effects of their videos.
2. The views of the campaigners differ _____ those of the adventurers.
3. Even a short visit could result _____ serious illness.
4. Careless filming can put local people _____ risk.
5. Some creators insist _____ filming whatever they like.

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

4 True, false or not given

1 F · 2 NG · 3 T · 4 F · 5 T

5 Vocabulary

1 vulnerable · 2 harmless · 3 exclusive · 4 extraordinary · 5 informed · 6 brief

6 Verb forms

1 had left · 2 have been controlled · 3 would have heard · 4 was filming · 5 staying

7 Language focus

1 for · 2 from · 3 in · 4 at · 5 on

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