

Traditional childhood pastimes of climbing trees and playing conkers are in decline, according to survey by the RSPB (Royal Society for the Protection of Birds). It's a charitable organisation registered in England and Wales.

The survey shows that people under 34 recall far fewer such childhood outdoor experiences than their counterparts over 55, according to a survey by RSPB.

People were asked which of 12 outdoor experiences they could remember during their childhood. The answer included making dens, daisy chains, climbing trees, playing conkers and feeding birds. Four out of five boys climbed trees and the same number of girls made daisy chains. But the survey showed the numbers declining among the newer generations.

Some 15% more of those aged over 55 had these outdoor experiences in their childhood, compared with those between 15-34 years old. Some 92% of the public agreed that experiences of nature were still important to children, and 82% agreed that schools should play a role in providing them to all children.

The survey has highlighted the positive impact of contact with nature on a child's education, health, wellbeing and social skills. At the same time, there has been a decline in these opportunities, with negative consequences for children, families and society - a condition now known as nature deficit disorder.

Mike Clarke, chief executive of the RSPB, will meet parliament members on Tuesday to urge the government to join other organisations in providing children with first-hand experiences of the natural environment. ... "We believe this guidance should include the many positive impacts to children of having contact with nature and learning outside the classroom."

[adapted from BBC news 6 September 2010]

VOCABULARY

Traditional (ট্রাডিশনাল) adj.- following or belonging to the customs; ঐতিহ্যবাহী। **Climb** (ক্লাইম্ব) v.- to go up; উঠা, চড়া। **Decline** (ডিক্লাইন) n.- to gradually become less, worse or lower; ধীরে ধীরে হারিয়ে যাওয়া। **Survey** (সার্ভে) v.- an examination of opinions, behaviour, etc.; জরিপ করা। **Protection** (প্রটেকশন) n.- act of keeping someone or something safe from injury, damage; রক্ষা করা, **Charitable** (চারিটেবল) adj.- kind and not judging other people in a severe way; দাতব্য। **Experience** (এক্সপেরিয়েন্স) v.- to have knowledge about a practical incident; অভিজ্ঞতা লাভ করা। **Remember** (রিমেম্বর) v.- to bring back anything from the memory, **Include** (ইনক্লুড) v.- to contain something as a part of something else; যুক্ত করা। **Daisy** (ডেইজী) n.- a type of white flower; ডেইজী। **Feed** (ফীড) v.- to make somebody eat, খাওয়ানো। **Generation** (জেনারেশন) n.- succession all the people of about the same age within a society or within a particular family; প্রজন্ম। **Agree** (এগ্রী) v.- have the same opinion about something; সম্মত হওয়া। **Highlight** (হাইলাইট) v.- draw special attention to; গুরুত্ব আরোপ করা। **Positive** (পজিটিভ) adj.- hopeful and confident, or giving cause for hope and confidence; ইতিবাচক। **Impact** (ইম্প্যাক্ট) n.- the force or action of one object hitting another, a powerful effect on a situation or person; প্রভাব। **Well-being** (ওয়েলবীং) n.- the state of being

comfortable, healthy or happy; কল্যাণ। **Opportunity** (অপাটিউনাটি) n.- a time or set of circumstances that makes it possible to do something; সুযোগ। **Consequence** (কনসিকোয়েন্স) n.- a result or effect, one that is unwelcome or unpleasant; প্রতিফল। **Deficit** (ডেফিসিট) n.- the amount by which something, especially a sum of money, is too small অভাবগ্রস্ততা। **Disorder** (ডিজঅর্ডার) n.- s state of confusion; বিশৃঙ্খলা। **Guidance** (গাইডেন্স) n.- help and advice about how to do something; পথ নির্দেশনা।

1. Choose the best answer from the alternatives.

1×7=7

(a) Traditional pastimes of climbing trees and playing conkers are in decline. Here “pastime” implies ____.

- (i) passing time by playing games (ii) doing household work
(iii) activities that are performed for enjoyment (iv) none of them

(b) The main aim of RSPB is to work for ____.

- (i) ensuring childhood pastime (iii) publishing report on childhood
(ii) protecting bird (iv) meeting with parliament member

(c) Which is not the remembered outside pastime mentioned in this passage?

- (i) playing conker (iii) making cave (ii) climbing trees (iv) hunting animal

(d) Which social organization should provide natural experience to children?

- (i) School (ii) RSPB (iii) UNESCO (iv) none of them

(e) What is the main purpose of Mike Clark's meeting with parliament member?

- (i) requesting government to join other organizations
(ii) urging government to contract organizations
(iii) urging government to visit natural environment
(iv) commanding members to work for child

(f) What does the phrase first-hand experience means?

- (i) properly gained experience (ii) newly gained experience
(iii) elementary experience (iv) none of them

(g) We believe this guidance should include the many positive impacts. Here the word "guidance" is a/an-

- (i) Adverb (ii) Adjective (iii) Verb (iv) Noun

(h) What is the synonym of the word “Charitable”?

(i) blessing (ii) blissful (iv) magnificent (iv) humanitarian

(i) The experiences of nature were still _____ to the children. Here which word cannot be a correct answer?

(i) crucial (ii) unimportant (iii) necessary (iv) important

(j) Where was RSPB registered?

(i) England (ii) England and Wales (iii) The Great Britain (iv) UK

(k) Four out of five girls made _____ in their childhood.

(i) dens (ii) daisy chain (iii) conker (iv) handmade painting

(l) What does the word “Generation” mean?

(i) village people who are not educated (ii) folk living in a rural area

(iii) people living in a same time (iv) people having different mentality

M. The text focuses on the — of Nature.

(i) importance (ii) bounty (iii) cruelty (iv) demerits

n. There has a — change in the forms of pastime activities.

(i) vivid (ii) insignificant (iii) worthless (iv) ruthless

o. The conventional pastime activities are on the way to —.

(i) extinct (ii) boosting (iii) increase (iv) enhancement

p. In the passage the term 'recall' denotes —.

(i) domain (ii) recollect (iii) calling again (iv) call

q. Climbing a tree is a — pastime activity to many people.

(i) conventional (ii) new (iii) unconventional (iv) unorthodox

r The new generations are no more — older forms of pastime activities.

(i) entering (ii) satisfied with (iii) detached (iv) separated from

s. Nature helps a child grow in a/an — way.

(i) evil (ii) balanced (iii) rival (iv) imbalanced

2. Answer the following questions.

2×5 = 10

- (a) What do you know about the organization RSPB?
- (b) What were the findings about childhood pastime according to the survey?
- (c) Explain the term “nature deficit disorder” in your own word.
- (d) What is the main aim of Mike Clark's meeting parliament members?
- (e) What are the causes of declining traditional childhood pastime?
- (f) What were asked to the people?
- (g) Which childhood memories people could remember?
- (h) How has newer generation declined outdoor experiences like climbing trees and making daisy chains shown by the survey?
- (i) On whom the nature deficit disorder impact negatively?
- (j) What are the traditional childhood pastimes that were prevalent in the society?
- k. What do you mean by pastime?
- l. What is the condition of conventional forms of pastime activities?
- m. What does the survey of RSPB reveal?
- n. What do you mean by outdoor games?
- o. What is your pastime activity?

3. Fill in each gap with a suitable word of your own based on the information in the text.

1×5=5

- i. Change is the (a)___ of the day. Everything (b)___ in course of time. Change is (c)___; (d)___ is the arrest of time. That's why we find change in the forms of (e)___ activities.

Extra Practices

- ii. Nature's (a)___ in our life is undeniable. The (b)___ of nature is in (c)___ way insignificant for us. The (d)___ of children in (e)___ of nature is perfect in many ways.
- (iii) A survey by the RSPB (a) ___ a decline in traditional childhood (b)___ like climbing trees and playing conkers. People under 34 remember fewer outdoor experiences compared to those over 55. The survey included activities such as making (c)___, daisy chains, climbing trees, playing conkers, and feeding birds. While four out of five boys (d)___ trees and girls made daisy chains, the survey shows a decrease in participation among younger (e)___ for these activities. Changing lifestyles and increased technology access may be contributing factors.

(iv) The survey (a) _____ the positive effects of nature on children's (b) _____, health, wellbeing, and social skills. However, there is a (c) _____ in these opportunities, resulting in negative consequences termed as nature (d) _____ disorder. Mike Clarke of the RSPB will meet with parliament members to urge the government to offer children first-hand experiences with (e) _____ and incorporate the benefits of outdoor learning into guidance.

Answer:

1. Choose the best answer from the alternatives:

- (a) (iii) activities that are performed for enjoyment
- (b) (ii) protecting bird
- (c) (iv) hunting animal
- (d) (i) School
- (e) (i) requesting government to join other organizations
- (f) (i) properly gained experience
- (g) (iv) Noun
- (h) (iv) humanitarian
- (i) (ii) unimportant
- (j) (ii) England and Wales
- (k) (ii) daisy chain
- (l) (iii) people living in a same time
- (m) (i) importance
- (n) (i) vivid
- (o) (i) extinct
- (p) (ii) recollect
- (q) (i) conventional
- (r) (iv) separated from
- (s) (ii) balanced

2. Answer the following questions:

- (a) The RSPB is the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds. It is a charitable organization registered in England and Wales, working to protect birds and promote nature awareness.
- (b) The survey revealed that traditional childhood pastimes like climbing trees and playing conkers are declining, especially among people under 34 compared to those over 55.
- (c) "Nature deficit disorder" refers to the condition where children have reduced contact with nature, leading to negative effects on their health, education, and social development.

(d) The main aim of Mike Clarke's meeting with parliament members is to urge the government to help provide children with more first-hand experiences with nature.

(e) The causes include modern lifestyle changes, more screen time, and reduced outdoor activity options for children.

(f) People were asked which of 12 outdoor experiences they remembered from their childhood.

(g) People could remember experiences like making dens, daisy chains, climbing trees, playing conkers, and feeding birds.

(h) The survey showed a significant drop among younger generations in outdoor experiences. For example, fewer children now climb trees or make daisy chains compared to the older generation.

(i) Nature deficit disorder negatively affects children, families, and society as a whole.

(j) The traditional pastimes included climbing trees, making daisy chains, playing conkers, feeding birds, and making dens.

(k) A pastime means an activity done for enjoyment or leisure, especially in free time.

(l) The condition of traditional pastimes is declining, as fewer children engage in such activities now.

(m) The RSPB survey reveals that there is a decline in traditional outdoor childhood pastimes and highlights the importance of reconnecting children with nature.

(n) Outdoor games are activities played outside, usually involving physical movement, nature, or fresh air.

(o) *(Personal answer; you can fill based on your actual hobby, e.g.,)* My pastime activity is reading story books and walking in the park.

3. Fill in the blanks:

i.

- (a) rule
- (b) changes
- (c) constant
- (d) stagnation
- (e) pastime

ii.

- (a) role
- (b) importance

- (c) no
- (d) involvement
- (e) the lap

iii.

- (a) reveals
- (b) pastimes
- (c) dens
- (d) climbed
- (e) generations

iv.

- (a) highlights
- (b) education
- (c) decline
- (d) deficit
- (e) nature

