



Deforestation

READING

LEVEL
Advanced

NUMBER
C1_3025R_EN

LANGUAGE
English





Goals

- Can read and understand a complex text about deforestation.
- Can explain the damage caused by deforestation and present my own view on the impact it has around the world.







Deforestation

Have you ever visited a forest or rainforest before? Where was it?

Describe the sights, sounds and feeling of being there to the teacher.

Talk about your experience.





Deforestation

Describe the picture to the teacher. Who or what might be impacted by the process of deforestation in the picture below?





Vocabulary



The Amazon Rainforest has a tremendous amount of **biodiversity** in its flora and fauna.

I really worked up an **appetite** after the marathon this morning.



Urban sprawl is a problematic side effect of population growth.

The **scourge** of landfill is one of the biggest negative effects of population growth.





Vocabulary



Those poor children suffered from **wilful neglect**.



I found the film **incomprehensible** and confusing.



The process of making paper and wooden objects always begins with **logging**.



Many **multinational corporations** produce many different kinds of products.



Deforestation

One of the most pressing environmental **scourges** on the planet is that of deforestation. The Earth's forests are being cleared at an alarming rate, causing a range of pressing environmental consequences. Forests cover up to 30% of the planet and are crucially necessary to support life. Forests create complex ecosystems, and function as environments that support a range of life forms. Unchecked **logging** clears swathes of forest each year and has rapidly intensified in pace since the Industrial Revolution. The loss of forest environment reduces the **biodiversity** of a region and degrades the quality and health of the environment.





Causes of deforestation

Farming and agriculture contribute significantly towards deforestation. Forests are cleared to allow for more grazing space for livestock or space to plant crops. Overgrazing by livestock can also limit the growth of young trees and stem the expansion of new forests. Another cause of deforestation is our unchecked **appetite** for paper and wood, as well as **urban sprawl** as a result of our ballooning populations.

Indonesia has lost 72 percent of its forest cover in its history. The majority of this is used for products like toilet rolls, palm oil, chocolate and paper for newspapers and magazines. This environment is the last natural reserve for wildlife like the Sumatran tiger and the infamous orangutan. Moreover, logging at this pace causes scars and damage to the environment that take generations to heal.



forest

rainforest

Forests and **rainforests** refer to habitats covered with a large amount of trees and vegetation.

Forest is a more general term, referring to areas covered with trees.

Rainforests are located closer to the equator and receive more rainfall due to their tropical climate.



Rainforests are a specific type of **forest**.



Definitions

What is the difference between a forest and a rainforest? Categorise the statements below, depending on whether they describe a forest or a rainforest.

Mostly found near the equator in tropical and humid areas.

Receives much less rainfall.

Home to two thirds of all living animal and plant species.

Do not have a tropical climate.

Have a greater range of plant and wildlife species.

Has a very thick canopy of tall trees.

Largely consist of only trees.

Typically go through marked seasonal changes.

Forest

Rainforest



Choose the best answer

1. Deforestation is one of the most _____ environmental issues of our time.

- a. pivoting
- b. pressing
- c. pushing
- d. passing

2. Forests cover up to _____ of the planet and are crucially necessary to support life.

- a. 35%
- b. 60%
- c. 30%
- d. 50%

3. Much of _____ lost rainforest has been used to make goods like palm oil, toilet rolls and paper.

- a. Malaysia's
- b. Sri Lanka's
- c. Indonesia's
- d. India's

4. Forests are dynamic environments that foster incredibly diverse _____.

- a. entymology
- b. ecological
- c. efficiency
- d. ecosystems



What do these phrases from the text mean?

...stem the expansion of new forests.

...the last natural reserve for wildlife...

...clears swathes of forests each year...

...unchecked appetite for paper and wood.

One of the most pressing environmental scourges...

...as a result of our ballooning populations.



Write a list

**Write a list of the main causes of deforestation.
When complete, order your list from most to least damaging.
Explain your reasoning to the teacher.**

A sheet of white paper with a vertical blue margin line on the left side. There are ten horizontal grey lines for writing, each preceded by a small circular bullet point.





Deforestation

The Amazon, the largest forest in the world, has lost 18 percent of its rainforest in the last 40 years. In terms of area, the amount of rainforest cleared for logging exceeds the size of the state of California. Considering the region is the home of 10 percent of all plant and animal species on Earth, the scale of loss and **wilful** destruction is **incomprehensible**.

Also under threat are the livelihoods and culture over 150 different groups of indigenous people, who live in complex societies shaped by the intensity of their environment. While the rate of deforestation has slowed in the last decade, recent steps backward reveal that some governments still haven't learned the lessons from the past. Brazil recently abolished an Amazon reserve the size of Denmark, caving to economic pressure from agricultural and mining lobbies. There is still a lot of progress to be made.





Deforestation

Some conservation groups and NGOs take the fight to larger corporations, exposing and confronting their shameless environmental abuse. Corporate and green **activism** has widened public consciousness about deforestation and prompted many **multinational** companies to improve their environmental practices. On a personal level there are many ways to staunch the impact of deforestation; eating sustainable food and avoiding products like palm oil or non-recycled wood or paper products ensures your consumption has as minimal an effect on the health of global forests as possible.





Persuade the teacher

Pick one of the statements below. Prepare some points to discuss with your teacher and try to persuade them that the statement is correct.

Activism and public pressure has compelled many multinational corporations to adopt more environmentally friendly practices.

Agriculture and the expansion of farmland for livestock and crops are among the most significant causes of deforestation.

Brazil and Indonesia are two countries which have lost vast tracts of their native rainforest.



Values

Talk to your teacher about some of the negative impacts of deforestation.

Air quality

Disruption and
destruction of
indigenous
communities

Global warming

Destruction of
plant and wildlife
species



Poverty and deforestation

Read the article about poverty and deforestation and fill in the blanks with the most appropriate vocabulary.

sources

experts

decision

livelihoods

illegally

Is there a link between poverty and deforestation?

Many _____ seem to think so. Many forests are located in poor areas and are used by local populations for their _____. Forests are rich in natural resources, and become the main _____ of survival for these communities.

Forests can provide fuel, timber and income for a cash-strapped family. Selling wood that has been _____ felled is the only means of subsistence that some communities have access to. The choice between destroying the natural environment or starving is an easy _____ for most.





Consequences of deforestation

Continuing deforestation also fuels climate change, impacting the amount of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. When trees are felled, carbon is released into the atmosphere. Forests also act as lungs for the planet, absorbing many of the greenhouse gases that warm the atmosphere. A greater amount of carbon dioxide enters the atmosphere as a result of deforestation than from the total of all traffic emissions worldwide.

Trees are also necessary to continue the water cycle, keeping soil moist and healthy and warding off the process of **desertification**. Trees are necessary for our **prosperity** in the long-term, but it is short-term economic gain that drives people to cut down forests.





Solutions to deforestation

There are solutions and remedies to these problems however. Sustainable forest management ensures that felled trees are replaced by planting young trees. Education and cooperation with the agriculture industry is also improving and the number of new plantations grows more each year.

Gains in forest conservation are being made but deforestation remains an issue in places like Indonesia and the Amazon. Winning the battle to conserve the planet's forest cover is critical for the **prosperity** of humankind and the planet.



desertification

Desertification is a type of land degradation where the environment becomes progressively more arid. Deserts can emerge through the loss of nutrients in the soil.

As water sources dry up the cycle accelerates, causing a loss of vegetation and wildlife.



The ecosystem was destroyed as a result of **desertification**.



Conservation strategies

You are a manager in the forestry industry.
Write a short text on some strategies you could use to limit the degradation to the environment as a result of logging.



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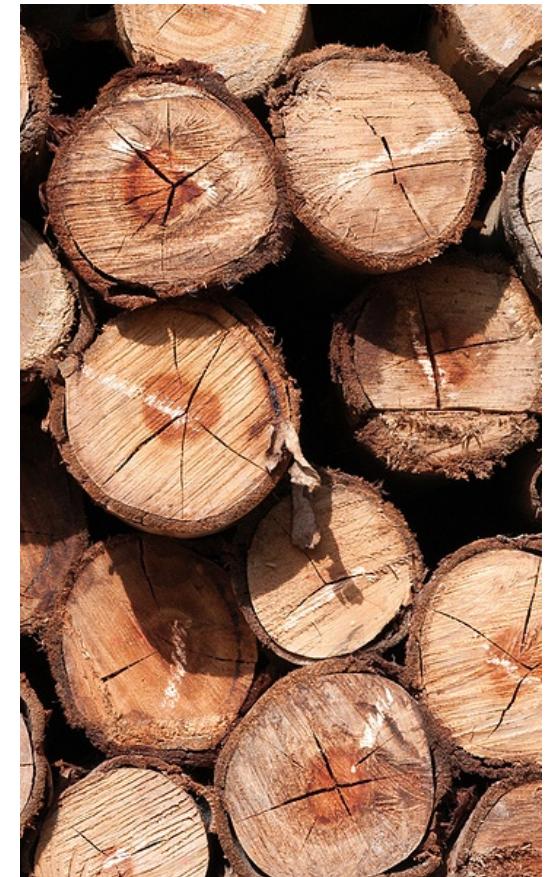


Writing exercise

Continue the description of the aftermath of a logging operation below.
What can you see, hear, smell and touch? Use your senses.

The ground was littered with the remains of the logging operation. Trunks lay horizontally, ripped with violence from the stumps. I could see the treads in the mud from the bulldozers, which had crushed anything unfortunate enough to have lain in their path...

- What time of day is it?
- What can you see?
- What can you hear?
- What can you touch?
- What can you smell?
- How do you feel?



manifesto

A **manifesto** is a written statement of intentions, motives and objectives, often posted publicly.

They are often a rallying cry and call to focus attention on a topic or goal.



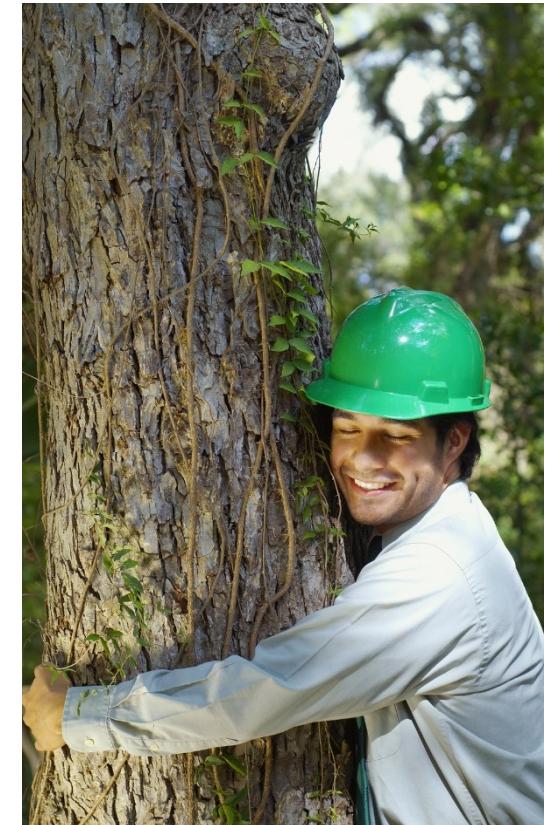
Breton's Surrealist **Manifesto** underlines his approach to poetry.



A plan of action

Write an environmental manifesto outlining what is necessary to win the battle against deforestation. Use the quote from the text below to start you off.

“Winning the battle to conserve the planet’s forest cover is critical for the prosperity of humankind and the planet.”





Personal activism

Write a letter to people who want to do more to reduce the impacts of deforestation. What practices can they incorporate into their own lives to limit extensive logging?

A large rectangular box with a thin black border, designed to look like a piece of lined paper. Inside the box are ten evenly spaced horizontal grey lines, intended for the user to write their response.



Reflect on the lesson

Take a moment to review any new **vocabulary, phrases, language structures** or **grammar points** you have come across for the first time in this lesson.

Review them with your teacher one more time to make sure you don't forget!

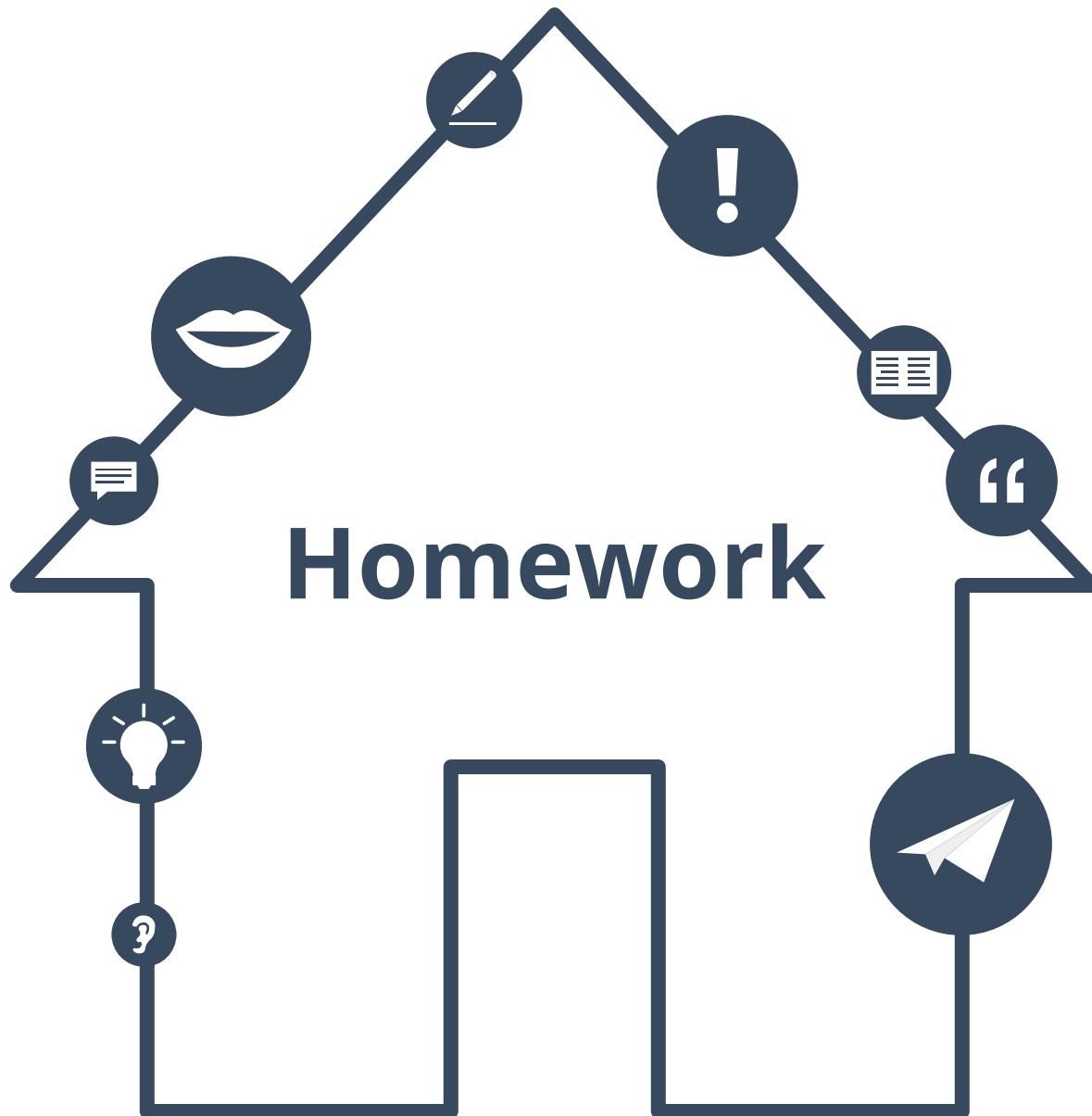




Answer key

1B, 2C, 3C, 4D

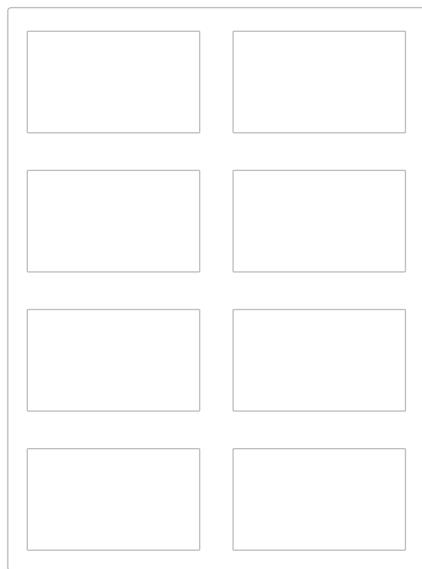
Activity P. 12





Vocabulary flashcards

**Create flashcards of the new vocabulary in this lesson.
Be sure to include the definition on the reverse side.**





Continue the passage

Continue writing a description of the logging operation following the story of the tiger. Try to communicate how the animal is feeling during this process.

The tiger darted through the undergrowth. A loud roar had startled the birdlife in the canopy, who flew swiftly from their nesting places. Giant metal machines were tearing the trees from the earth, and men in brightly coloured uniforms were sawing into the trunks in pairs. The animal's eyes were wide; its heart was thumping in its chest...





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