



DEFORESTATION



Scan to review worksheet

Expemo code:
1IC8-I1LD-339

1

Warm up

In pairs, complete the quiz below. No phones allowed!

- How many countries does the Amazon Rainforest reach?
a. 5 b. 7 c. 9 d. 10
- What is the largest city in the Amazon Rainforest?
a. Manaus b. Rio de Janeiro c. Lima d. Buenos Aires
- Which part of a forest is known as the 'canopy'?
a. the floor of the forest
b. the highest part of the forest
c. the gap between the trees
d. the part of the forest that has been cleared by humans
- The orangutan is an animal native to rainforests from which two countries?
a. South Korea and Japan
b. South Africa and Botswana
c. Indonesia and Malaysia
d. Brazil and Colombia
- The General Sherman, thought to be the largest tree in the world, is named after a person from...?
a. The UK b. Germany c. The Netherlands d. The US



2 Pre-listening task: vocabulary focus

Part A: Match words with the correct definitions.

- | | |
|------------------------------|---|
| 1. <u>disrupt</u> (v) | a. wood that is prepared for use in buildings, etc. |
| 2. <u>extinction</u> (n) | b. a situation in which a plant, an animal, a way of life, etc. stops existing |
| 3. <u>plantation</u> (n) | c. the work or business of cutting down trees for their wood |
| 4. <u>timber</u> (n) | d. make it difficult for something to continue in the normal way |
| 5. <u>logging</u> (n) | e. involving the use of natural products and energy in a way that does not harm the environment |
| 6. <u>heated</u> (adj.) | f. (of a person or discussion) full of anger and excitement |
| 7. <u>conduct</u> (v) | g. a large area of land that is planted with trees to produce wood |
| 8. <u>sustainable</u> (adj.) | h. (formal) organise and/or do a particular activity |

Part B: Complete the sentences with the words from Part A.

conducting
logging

disrupted
plantations

extinction
sustainable

heated
timber

- My brother decided to move out of the _____ business, as he's worried about the environment.
- During the debate, there was a _____ discussion about the housing crisis.
- The wedding, which was held outdoors, was _____ by the storm.
- There are many new _____ outside the town, although most of the trees are from the same species.
- If you want to live in a _____ way, you should try to use public transport rather than your own car.
- Scientists are _____ an experiment to see whether reading negative news stories affects our mental health.
- Hundreds of years ago, most houses were made from _____ rather than stone.
- We're hoping that our work will save the tiger from _____.





3 Listening for specific information



Listen to the report about deforestation. Tick the items you hear mentioned. Which two items were not mentioned in the report?

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> protestors | <input type="checkbox"/> the natural world |
| <input type="checkbox"/> paper | <input type="checkbox"/> tools |
| <input type="checkbox"/> business logic | <input type="checkbox"/> human nature |

4 Listening for comprehension

Part A: Listen to the podcast again. For each question, select the answer that most accurately reflects the information given in the audio.

1. What does Kate say we have disrupted in order to serve the industry?
a. ecosystems b. forests c. cities
2. Which byproduct of trees does Tim say we need for construction?
a. leaves b. oil c. timber
3. According to Kate, what does each tree have the potential to be?
a. a home for thousands of creatures
b. a source of food for people
c. a source of wood for building houses
4. What does Tim think would happen if his company didn't exist?
a. people wouldn't be able to construct buildings
b. the world would be a better place
c. another would appear in its place

Part B: Look at the sentences below. What do you think the underlined phrases mean?

1. When connecting with customers, using a copy-and-paste approach is unlikely to be successful.
2. Bicycle lanes have been springing up in my town recently.

Discuss in pairs.

- When applying for jobs, is a copy-and-paste approach a good or bad idea?
- Have many new restaurants sprung up in your area in the last few years?



5

General vocabulary

Part A: Match the words and phrases in bold with the correct definitions.

Group 1:

1. **Outrage (n)** has been growing following the government's decision to pass the new law.
 2. We should invest in machines that **purify (v)** air in public spaces, to reduce infections.
 3. Before humans arrived, my country was covered with **sprawling (adj.)** forests.
 4. My teacher told me that the argument I presented in my essay was **tenuous (adj.)**.
 5. Some scientists are looking into ways to trap **carbon (n)** so that it cannot contribute to global warming.
 6. We were told that the **roots (n)** of the tree were damaging our house, so we had to cut it down.
 7. At the bottom of our garden, there is a **copse (n)** and a little river that runs behind the trees.
- a. used to refer to a gas produced by vehicles and industry, and breathed out by people and animals which affects the earth's climate
 - b. a small area of trees growing together
 - c. a strong feeling of shock and anger
 - d. so weak or uncertain that it hardly exists
 - e. the part of a plant that grows under the ground and takes in water and minerals that it sends to the rest of the plant
 - f. spreading in an untidy way
 - g. make something pure by removing substances that are dirty, harmful or not wanted



**Group 2:**

1. During the lockdown, police drove around our town to ensure **compliance (n)** with the regulations.
 2. If we want to reduce pollution, it is **vital (adj.)** to start replacing cars with electric vehicles.
 3. Many **indigenous (adj.)** people died from disease when the invaders arrived.
 4. Our boss has decided to **incentivise (v)** hard work by giving us extra money at the end of each month if we meet our deadlines.
 5. The soldiers **razed (v)** the entire village, burning all of the buildings to the ground.
 6. Her hair was **intertwined (v)** with flowers.
 7. Huge **swathes (n)** of corn had been cut and taken away by the farmer, and the land looked strange without it.
-
- a. (of people and their culture) coming from a particular place and having lived there for a long time before other people came there
 - b. a long piece of land, especially one on which the plants or crops have been cut
 - c. necessary or essential in order for something to succeed or exist
 - d. encourage somebody to behave in a particular way by offering them a reward
 - e. completely destroy a building, town, etc. so that nothing is left
 - f. the practice of obeying rules or requests made by people in authority
 - g. be twisted together with something else in a way that is difficult to separate



**Part B: Complete the short text below with the words and phrases from the above exercise.**

carbon **compliance** **copse** **incentivised** **indigenous** **intertwined** **outrage**
purify **razed** **roots** **sprawling** **swathes** **tenuous** **vital**

Our community is small, and we have had our disagreements, but when the _____¹ was cut down to make way for a new factory, we united in _____². This wasn't the first time our local area had been attacked. According to my grandparents, when they were children, the entire region was covered in _____³ forests. Over a very short period of time, the woodland was _____⁴ and turned into farms and building sites. Although my grandfather would never call himself _____⁵ to the area – his parents were from France – he felt a connection to this part of the world. He told me that some of the locals were _____⁶ by businesses to sell their land so that it could be developed. These days, there's no need to persuade people with rewards. When the remaining trees were cut down, we were sent letters by the logging company to remind us that a lack of _____⁷ on our part would result in legal troubles. Although their threats seemed, to me, to be _____⁸, my friends and neighbours were too exhausted to keep fighting. The day after the trees were removed, I remember walking to the bottom of my garden. I could still see the _____⁹ sticking out of the ground, and it made me sad in a way that was difficult to describe. Unfortunately, I feel that what happened to our community is happening around the world, with _____¹⁰ of trees disappearing in the last century. We are forgetting the many benefits of forests: the way in which they _____¹¹ the air, trap _____¹² and provide shelter for thousands of animals. They are _____¹³ parts of our world, and we are failing in our duty to care for them. I believe that our future is _____¹⁴ with that of our woodlands.





6 Talking point

Discuss these questions in pairs.

1. Was your country covered in sprawling forests in the past?
2. How can governments ensure compliance with future regulations on logging and other destructive industries?
3. In order to avoid the spread of disease, should we invest in machines that purify air in public buildings?
4. Is it better to try to trap carbon to reduce global warming, or should we cut down on fossil fuels instead?
5. If the roots of an old tree threaten a building, should the tree be cut down? Why/why not?
6. Do you think that there is enough outrage over climate change, or have we begun to accept it?
7. How can we incentivise businesses to be more sustainable?

7 Pre-reading task: reading for general understanding

You are going to read a text about our relationship with trees (page eight). Scan the text quickly and match the headings with the correct paragraphs. One heading cannot be matched to any of the paragraphs in the text.

A) *Finding workable solutions*

B) *An individual act of violence*

C) *The oldest forest in Europe*

D) *The beginning of destruction*

E) *The value of the forest*

Glossary:

scatter ashes - throw or drop the remains of a dead person after their body has been burnt, usually in a natural area

sycamore - a European tree with leaves that have five points and seeds that are like pairs of wings that spin while falling



A tale of trees

Is it too late to save our forests?

i. _____¹

The tree at Sycamore Gap had stood for hundreds of years. It appeared in films, and postcards and was used as an emblem of local businesses. A feature of the landscape, the sycamore tree is believed to have been planted in the late nineteenth century. It was recently cut down with a chainsaw; an act that shocked nature lovers throughout the country. As outrage increased, some shared memories of the tree, which had been a popular site for photographers, marriage proposals and the scattering of ashes. The felling of the tree appears to have been a barbaric act, irrational, not driven by industrial need or economic forces. Around the world, however, billions of trees are cut down every year. Deforestation occurs for a variety of reasons, such as to create space for the rearing of cattle or to harvest wood for use in industry. We also cut down our forests to claim land for our own purposes; to expand our cities or to build power plants and factories. As the trees are toppled and chopped into lumber, our own world shrinks a little, and our future on Earth becomes more and more tenuous.

ii. _____²

Forests are a critical part of our planet. They are home to countless creatures great and small, and entire ecosystems depend on healthy woodland. Forests help to trap and store carbon, reducing the damage from human-caused climate change. They purify air and water, act as natural filters, and regulate regional and global weather systems. In fact, we are only just beginning to understand the true value of our wooded areas, from tiny copses to sprawling rainforests. Recent research has even suggested that the trees within a forest may be able to communicate with each other, sharing distress signals and information through underground networks. The roots of trees in forests are intertwined with fungal filaments, which some believe act as a sort of biological internet. The loss of a woodland area to logging and controlled burning may well result in damage on a far greater scale than we have yet to realise.

iii. _____³

The Amazon rainforest is often described as the lungs of the world. It has been providing oxygen for living beings for ten million years and is home to almost four hundred billion trees. Humans – and other animals – have existed in harmony with the forest for thousands of years, but when South America was colonised by Europeans, things began to change. Early settler plantations saw vast swathes of wooded land stripped of trees. In their place, buildings and farmland appeared. Centuries later, with many indigenous tribes displaced or decimated, huge areas of the rainforest were razed, as capitalism incentivised widespread logging, industrial farming and an urgent need to house a billowing population. By the twenty-first century, seventeen percent of the Amazon rainforest had been lost, and worse is yet to come: at the current rate of deforestation, the forest may cease to exist entirely within a few generations.

iv. _____⁴

The dire consequences of the loss of the Amazon would be felt by all living things on the planet, and yet – we still have time to prevent this global catastrophe. Collaboration on an international scale will be vital. Environmental laws to protect the Amazon – and other forests – will need to be strengthened or rewritten to ensure compliance, with incentives and heavy prison sentences offered to those who follow or break regulations. Alternatives to products such as meat or palm oil should be invested in, and those whose livelihoods are tied to the logging industry must be retrained by governments. Destructive agricultural practices should be relegated to the past, and conservation should be a part of our education. From the empty hole where the sycamore once stood in Northumberland, to the jungles of South America, we need to relearn how to coexist with our planet rather than battle against it. As the poet Auden said, "A culture is no better than its woods." We came from the forests and we owe them everything. Without them, we will no longer have a civilisation.

Sources: BBC, The Guardian, Time



8

Reading comprehension

Read the article again. Complete the sentences with between ONE to THREE words from the article.

1. The sycamore tree that was recently _____ appeared in films, and postcards and was an emblem of local businesses.
2. Land which used to be forest is often used to _____ our cities.
3. Home to creatures _____, forests are a critical part of our planet.
4. Individual trees within a forest may even be able to _____ each other, according to recent research.
5. Often described as the _____ of the world, the Amazon rainforest has been providing living beings with oxygen for ten million years.

Group 2:

1. When _____ colonised South America, our relationship with the Amazon began to change.
2. If current rates of deforestation continue, the Amazon may _____ entirely within a few generations.
3. Losing the Amazon rainforest would be a _____ that would be felt by all living things on the planet.
4. In order to avoid the worst, we will need to collaborate on an _____.
5. Education can play a part in helping us to _____ how to love nature.

9

Post-reading: collocations

Using the text above for reference, complete the collocations below with one word from the list.

Group 1:

- | | |
|-------------|-----------------|
| 1. fungal | a. signals |
| 2. dire | b. consequences |
| 3. cease to | c. exist |
| 4. distress | d. land |
| 5. harvest | e. wood |
| 6. claim | f. filaments |

**Group 2:**

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. settler | a. act |
| 2. barbaric | b. our planet |
| 3. rear | c. lumber |
| 4. topple and chop into | d. cattle |
| 5. coexist with | e. plantations |
| 6. emblem of | f. local businesses |

In pairs, discuss the questions below.

1. If you had a business, what would your emblem be?
2. Do you think humans are capable of coexisting with our planet?
3. In one thousand years, will people still be harvesting lumber and rearing cattle, or will things have changed?

10**Language point: the impersonal passive**

Part A: Look at the sentences. Which one is active and which is passive? Who or what is the subject?

James planted the tree twenty years ago.

The tree was planted twenty years ago.

- We often use the passive to start the sentence with the most important information, or when it is not important to mention who has performed an action.
- The passive is usually used in more formal or scientific writing.
- We can form the passive with *subject + be + past participle*.

Change each sentence so that it becomes passive instead of active, but keeps the same meaning.

Explorers discovered the island in the nineteenth century.

1

Scientists have produced a new vaccine.

2



Part B: We use the impersonal passive with reporting verbs, such as believe, claim, consider, know, report, say, think, understand, etc. The impersonal passive is used to report what an unspecified group of people say or believe. Study the example sentence below. In which context do you think this type of sentence would be used? Discuss in pairs.

It is thought that the planet was formed seven million years ago.

Look at the first paragraph of the text (page eight). Can you find an example of the impersonal passive?

11 Talking point

In pairs or small groups, discuss the following questions.

1. Why do you think people were upset when the tree at Sycamore Gap was cut down?
2. Do you feel a connection to the natural world? Why/why not?
3. In the future, will people feel more or less connected to nature?
4. Does the earth exist to help us, or do we exist to help the earth?
5. Do you think that the Amazon rainforest will still be here in one hundred years?
6. What do you think the poet Auden meant when he said "a culture is no better than its woods"?
7. In South America, many environmentalists have been attacked for their attempts to save the Amazon. Why do you think this is?

12 Extended activity / homework

Write an opinion essay on ONE of the topics below. Your essay should agree with or disagree with the statement and should be between 260 – 320 words.

Although it is a shame that we are losing our rainforests, housing and jobs for human beings are more important than trees.

Those who are making money from the destruction of the Amazon rainforest belong in prison.

Alternative extended activity: In groups, discuss ways in which your country is succeeding and failing in the battle against global warming. Together, think of five possible solutions to the climate crisis. How will you implement these ideas? Will industry groups oppose them? How likely are they to succeed? Present your solutions to the class.