

Reading Test

Topic «Environment»

Form 9

23rd December We have almost reached the Antarctic after two months at sea. Although it is summer here and there are 24 hours of sunshine, it's still freezing and there are huge icebergs everywhere. One of our tasks while we are here, is to check the numbers, movement and feeding-behaviour of the penguin Colonies. We do this by capturing them and putting electronic tags on them. We have to be very careful so that no penguin is hurt.

24th December Today we sang Christmas carols to our new friends. They clapped their flippers to show they liked the singing. We also saw a family of blue whales - they must have heard our singing. What an amazing sight! The whale calves swam alongside their mothers. It was a touching scene and one we shall never forget.

25th December Happy Christmas! The crew traditionally exchange presents on these expeditions. Some of them were disappointed, though, because their presents were underneath food supplies and other equipment. We had expected to reach the Antarctic research station earlier but recent bad, weather has delayed us. Anyway, Christmas dinner was Christmas delicious. We had roast turkey and Christmas pudding.

26th December Today we played games on the deck such as sticking our heads in buckets of freezing water. Thinking about it now, this was crazy and dangerous! Soon, we are going to reach our base. Then we can start our research on the penguins. After we have done that, we can begin our albatross project. Checking the weight of albatross chicks is the job of Juan, a biologist from the University of Barcelona.

Topic “Environment”

Task 1

Read the text and answer the questions by choosing A, B, C or D.

1. What is the weather like in summer in the Antarctic?
A) boiling hot
B) freezing cold
C) warm
D) freezing
2. Why are they in the Antarctic?
A) to spend Christmas there
B) to do research on the wildlife
C) to save the penguins and whales
D) to carry out some experiments
3. Why do they capture the penguins?
A) to feed them
B) to sing them
C) to talk to them
D) to put tags on them
4. What was their most memorable Christmas experience?

- A) looking at the icebergs
- B) singing Christmas carols to the penguins
- C) seeing the blue whales
- D) having 24 hours of sunshine

5. Why were some of the crew disappointed?

- A) They were far from the station
- B) They didn't have any Christmas presents
- C) They couldn't reach their presents
- D) They couldn't enjoy the games

6. Which of the following is the best title for the text?

- A) Visiting the Antarctic
- B) The Behaviour of Penguins
- C) An Antarctic Christmas Holiday
- D) Memories from a Scientific Expedition

Task 2

Which of the following statements are true and which are false?

- 1. The scientific expedition was coming to the Antarctic.
- 2. The aim of the expedition was to find out more about penguins.
- 3. The time of the expedition coincided with Christmas celebrations.
- 4. Blue whales were swimming back near to the island.
- 5. The crew received Christmas presents and had roast turkey and Christmas pudding.
- 6. After finishing their research, they have to carry on another project.

Water. Water everywhere...

Imagine a world with no drinking water, and no water to wash or cook with. It's hard to imagine this, because we use water every day without even thinking about it. Yet there are terrible water shortages all over the world. In parts of Africa and China, for example, many people don't even have clean water to drink. In fact, over half of the people in the world have to live with water shortages every day. We all need water — not just for our homes and factories, but to survive. Fortunately, there are things that we can all do to save water.

The solution begins at home. We can save the water from our baths and use it for the garden, instead of wasting hundreds of litres of clean water on our lawns and plants. This would help to save many litres of water everyday, especially in the summer.

Governments can help by passing laws to stop factories from wasting and polluting water. If factories recycled water and stopped pouring chemicals into our lakes and rivers, there would be a lot more clean water around.

Governments could also stop water companies from wasting millions of litres of water because of leaking pipes. Many cities have successfully saved water by repairing pipes.

All in all, there are many things we can do to save our planet's disappearing

water supplies. The time has come to start understanding the value of water, before a world without clean water becomes a terrible reality

Water. Water everywhere...

Task 3

Read the text and circle the correct answer

1. The writer says that in many parts of the world people...
 - a) don't have water at all;
 - b) don't have any clean water;
 - c) have too much water.
2. All people of the planet need water:
 - a) for homes and factories;
 - b) for washing;
 - c) to survive.
3. The writer suggests that we should...
 - a) use more water at home;
 - b) stop using water at home;
 - c) stop using so much water at home.
4. Some laws should be passed to
 - a) stop factories from polluting the air;
 - b) stop factories from polluting water;
 - c) fine factory owners.
5. There would be more clean water around if factories...
 - b) produced more water;
 - c) used the same water several times;
 - d) only used water from rivers and lakes.
6. Water companies can help...
 - a) by fixing pipes;
 - b) by giving us more water;
 - c) by making people pay a lot more.

Task 4

Decide whether the following statements are true or false.

1. There are some problems connected with water shortages around the world.
2. Less than half of the people in the world live with water shortages every day.
3. We shouldn't waste clean water on lawns as we can save it from our baths.
4. Laws should be passed by the government to stop factories from polluting the water.
5. Factories keep on pouring waste into rivers.
6. Most of the cities have saved water by repairing pipes.

Listening Test
Topic “Environment”

Form 9

Animal School

Task 1

You will hear some information about a school for people who work with animals. Listen and for questions 1-6 choose the best answer A, B, C or D.

1. Timothy Roberts has a school for
 - A) exotic animals
 - B) animal trainers
 - C) animal actors
 - D) trainee vets
2. At the one-day seminar students can
 - A) do tricks
 - B) change tigers' moods
 - C) work with large bears
 - D) feed baby animals
3. On longer courses, students
 - A) only attend lectures
 - B) only work with animals
 - C) attend lectures and become volunteers
 - D) attend lectures and work with animals
4. After finishing their training, many students
 - A) offer to help out at the ranch
 - B) get a job at the ranch
 - C) make films like “Jungle Book”
 - D) are confident and skilful animal handlers
5. Timothy is so successful because
 - A) animals love him
 - B) he has lovely animals
 - C) he loves animals
 - D) he has a key
6. You can join the course by

- A) phoning Timothy
- B) going to the school
- C) using the Internet
- D) fax.

Task 2

Decide if each statement is correct or incorrect. If you think it is correct, put a tick (✓) in the box under A for Yes. If you think it is not correct, put a tick (✗) in the box under B for No.

- 1. Timothy's school is in Hollywood.
- 2. At his ranch animals are well looked after.
- 3. The animals trainer holds long courses too.
- 4. There are no exotic species there.
- 5. After the course trainees may join a volunteer programme.
- 6. You can be a skilful animal handler even if you don't treat animals well.



Listening Test Topic “Environment”

Animal School

Form 9

Timothy Roberts runs a training school for people who want to work with wild, exotic and endangered animals. He's the most famous animal trainer in Hollywood and has thirty years' experience.

Timothy's students usually begin with a one-day seminar at his California ranch. Here the animals feel safe and are really well cared for. At the seminar, students learn some of the tricks of the film business. Timothy demonstrates how to get a Bengal tiger to pretend to be angry for films like "Jungle Book" and how to work with grizzly bear cubs so that they are gentle and calm. Then they get to give them their milk bottles. Students even bathe the elephants!

On longer courses the trainees learn animal management, handling and training techniques, as well as veterinary care. Lectures also include topics such as safety, physiology and animal psychology. Students use what they learn in these lectures when they are working with the animals themselves. It's a fantastic opportunity to work with endangered and exotic species like leopards, monkeys, elephants, lions, birds of prey, wolves and many more. Can you imagine yourself walking a tiger or shaking hands with a huge bear?

At the end of their course, many students choose to join Timothy's volunteer programme. They spend every day with the creatures to build a strong bond with them. It's the best way to become a confident and skilful animal handler, and it leads to great career opportunities in the animal industry.

So, do you think you've got what it takes to be a trainer? Do you love animals? That's the most important thing, and the key to Timothy's success. He adores all animals. Do you feel that way too?⁷ If so contact Timothy on www.animalschool.com to enroll on your first course. The next one-day seminar is on Saturday 21 st October

Listening Test **Topic “Environment”**

Trees in danger

Millions of years before animals lived on land, there were trees on the Earth. But today trees are in serious danger.

In the 1970s, many of the elm trees in Europe were killed by Dutch elm disease. Now an even greater danger is threatening the forests and woods of Europe from northern Sweden to southern Italy. This new danger attacks all trees – deciduous trees like oak, beech and birch as well as coniferous trees like fir and pine. First the branches turn yellow end brown. Then the trees' needles or leaves fall. The roots and the trunk shrink. Finally the trees die. In the Black Forest in southem Germany 75% of the trees have been damaged or killed.

But what is killing the trees? Nobody knows exactly, but it is probably air

pollution or acid rain. Factories, power stations and cars emit tons of smoke into the air. This smoke contains sulphur dioxide and nitrogen oxide. These substances mix with water vapour in the atmosphere and form sulphuric acid and nitric acid. Sunlight turns these acids into poisonous oxidants which fall in rain or snow onto the trees.

What can be done about acid rain? Why don't governments do something to save the trees? Unfortunately, acid rain doesn't always fall on the countries which produce the pollution. The wind carries the poisonous substances from one country to another. Why should the people of one country pay to save another country's trees?

In other parts of the world trees are threatened by people, not by pollution. The great rainforests of Asia and South America are being destroyed for firewood and building material. Something must be done. Trees are important because they provide a home for many other plants, and animals too. They protect the flowers which grow on the forest floor. They provide food for insects, reptiles, birds and mammals. They protect the soil from the wind and the rain. Most important of all, the forests are the lungs of the planet. Trees produce the oxygen which we breathe. If the trees die, we will, too.

“Trees in Danger”

Task 3

Listen to the text and decide whether the statements are true (T) or false (F)

1. Trees were on Earth millions of years ago.
2. Deciduous and coniferous trees are killed by Dutch elm disease.
3. The roots and the trunk shrink and then leaves fall.
4. Acid rain is killing trees.
5. Acid rain always fall on the countries which produce the pollution.
6. If trees stop producing oxygen, people will die.

Task 4

Listen to the text and for questions 1-6 choose the best answer A, B or C

1. When were the elm trees killed?

- a) 1960s
- b) 1970s
- c) 1930s

2. What kinds of trees does the disease attack?

- a) deciduous
- b) coniferous
- c) deciduous and coniferous

3. Why does it happen? Because of ...

- a) branches and trunk
- b) disease
- c) acid rain

4. What causes acid rain?

- a) smoke
- b) water pollution
- c) the atmosphere

5. Does acid rain fall on the countries which produce the pollution?

- a) always
- b) never
- c) not always

6. What is happening to the trees in Asia and South America? They are ...

- a) wiped out by fire
- b) threatened people
- c) threatened by pollution



