Unit 3: Biodiversity Loss

Lesson Objectives

Students are well-informed on the subject of Biodiversity Loss, specifically the extinction of animals.
Students are able to use Cause and Effect languages in Academic Writing in the same context.

Reading

In recent years rhino numbers have dropped dramatically due to _____ for their horn, which was previously used in Traditional Chinese Medicine, but is now commonly used as a status symbol of success and wealth. More than ever, field programmes are having to invest heavily in anti-poaching activities. However, as poachers are often armed with guns themselves, it is very dangerous for the anti-poaching teams who put their lives on the line to protect rhinos.

Rhinos also face threats from _____. Due to the expansion of the human population, we look for more places to live and grow our food. Development of agriculture in the _____ are particularly attractive to humans because of the flat space. Most of the area is level, making farming and raising livestock particularly easy. However, planting crops and adding livestock to an area will also change the composition of the land, and affect the natural habitat of the animals within it. The _____ humans bring with them leads to enhanced competition on the already dry grassland. _____ will then happen, because livestock and wild animals graze too frequently on a particular plot of land. They don't allow new plants to take hold before eating them, which will dry the area. In addition, development of farming eventually strips the soil of nutrients, and together with overgrazing, can lead to the _____ of a grassland area.

_____ presents another threat to rhinos as the weather conditions and grasslands won't get too much water. Since rhinos graze on the fields, they will be at risk of dying if not having enough fresh food.

Another danger comes from the increased presence of wildfires – a natural process of removal and regrowth in the grasslands, but too many wildfires can be detrimental to the area. Besides, when humans move to live in grassland areas, wildfires are even more likely to happen due to their machinery.

overgrazing
habitat loss
climate change
poaching
desertification
livestock
grasslands

LIVEWORKSHEETS