

3 21st Read the text and complete the notes.

Good and bad news for plants in the UAE!

Many scientists believe that the Middle East will have less and less rain in the future, which could be bad news for the local ecosystem. Plants need water to survive and animals and people need plants.

Yet there may be no need to worry. Researchers have discovered that plants in the Middle East are extremely tough and will be able to cope with climate change in the future. The researchers have found that some plants have survived without water for more than seven years, and that plants in arid regions are not as sensitive to climate change as we thought. One possible reason is that these plants have never had regular amounts of rain, so are able to adjust to even less annual rainfall.

The bad news for plants is grazing, or overgrazing, by camels and goats. There are now so many camels and goats that many shrubs, even ones with thorns, are disappearing. In fact, it seems that only annual plants can survive the grazing, as long as the seeds aren't all eaten.

'Fencing off land to stop the camels is not the best solution,' according to David Gallacher, assistant professor at Zayed University. The solution he believes could be having more nature reserves like the ones we already have for oryx and gazelles.

Future for plants in UAE - ¹ good and bad
 Plants very ² _____
 Plants live for ³ _____ or more with no rain
⁴ _____ is problem
 Too many ⁵ _____
⁶ _____ disappearing. Only ⁷ _____ survive
 Possible solution: ⁸ _____