

Nombre: _____

1. Read this letter about one of the characteristics of cities and answer the question

Dear Editor,

I am writing in response to the article "Protecting Our Public Spaces" in issue 14, published this spring. In it, the author claims that "all graffiti is vandalism, pure and simple, and offers no benefit to our public spaces." I would like to point out that many people believe that graffiti is an art form that can benefit our public spaces just as much as sculpture, fountains, or other, more accepted art forms.

People who object to graffiti usually do so more because of where it is, not what it is. They argue, as your author does, that posting graffiti in public places constitutes an illegal act of property damage. But the location of such graffiti should not prevent the images themselves from being considered genuine art.

I would argue that graffiti is the ultimate public art form. Spray paint is a medium unlike any other. Through graffiti, the entire world has become a canvas. No one has to pay admission or travel to a museum to see this kind of art. The artists usually do not receive payment for their efforts. These works of art in the urban landscape are available, free of charge, to everyone who passes by.

To be clear, I do not consider random words or names sprayed on stop signs to be art. Plenty of graffiti is just vandalism, pure and simple. However, there is also graffiti that is breathtaking in its intricate detail, its realism, or its creativity. It takes great talent to create such involved designs with spray paint. Are these creators not artists just because they use a can of spray paint instead of a paintbrush, or because they cover the side of a building rather than a canvas?

To declare that all graffiti is vandalism, and nothing more, is an overly simplistic statement that I find out of place in such a thoughtful publication as your magazine. Furthermore, graffiti is not going anywhere, so we might as well find a way to live with it and enjoy its benefits. One option could be to make a percentage of public space, such as walls or benches in parks, open to graffiti artists. By doing this, the public might feel like part owners of these works of art, rather than just the victims of a crime.

Regards,

Derrick Milton



1. Why did the author write this letter to the editor?

2. Why do most people object to graffiti?

3. How much money do graffiti artists get for their work?

4. What kind of graffiti does the author consider as vandalism?

5. What solution does the author propose for graffiti not to spread all over cities?

2. Now read about tropical rain forests and fill in the blanks with a suitable connective.

There are rainforests in over 80 countries throughout the world.

An estimated 1.6 billion of the world's poorest people (those surviving on less than 2 US dollars a day) rely to some extent on forests so _____ to survive. These could be the many poor people who take something out of the forest in _____ to sell it elsewhere. It is not only the poor who rely on the rainforests for their income. Rich people _____ as cattle ranchers and soya bean farmers are also amongst those who depend on rainforests.

_____ addition, there are governments who look to the rainforests as a source of wealth and power.

_____, those people whose families have lived in the rainforests for generations have a particularly close relationship with them and could play a vital role in protecting them. The tragedy is that not _____ are the rainforests being destroyed but so are its peoples. Five

centuries ago there were approximately ten million Indians living in the Amazonian rainforest. Today there are fewer than 200,000. The Indians could not survive deforestation, the illnesses brought into the forest by outside people and the violence of those invading the land. Some tribes were only discovered in the early 1950s, such as the Yanomani tribe, which had lived peacefully until 1975 when outside people discovered gold and uranium. Some governments claimed that they were protecting them, in fact they were not. Roads were built so that the precious metals could be reached and mines were opened.



3. Go on reading about rain forests and fill in the blanks with a suitable word.

The Yanomani tried to stop this invasion of their homeland but they had to fight very powerful interests who were intent on making money. In the 1970s the Surui tribe discovered. It now has a university-educated chief is working with global companies to map his region using modern technology. This will help to safeguard the region against all who wish to destroy it for profit. Tropical rainforests provide important services local communities and to the world. Medical research has benefited from the rainforest. Over 120 medicines sold worldwide come from rainforest plants, and 25% of cancer-fighting drugs come from plants only found there. But on the hand, with deforestation, it is projected that we will lose than 20% of the world's oxygen. In addition, rainfall cease to be regulated around the world. We will lose 137 plant, animal and insect species a single day due to deforestation. Many of these disappearing plants could hold new cures for diseases. The knowledge of healers in the rainforests is extremely helpful understanding the healing properties of plants. However, most medicine men of the forests are now at least 70 years old and they die what they know will go with them. Although small in number, the people of the rainforests possess great wisdom. If we lose this wisdom, then the whole world will suffer.



4. Now read about Ricky, who lives in a village in a rainforest and complete the text using the correct form of the verbs in brackets. When you see a +, use a modal

Folklore had it that my father once wrestled a bear, a claim he never denied. If the story (be) about anyone else, it would have been dismissed as exaggeration. But no one ever (doubt) the truth of any story about my father. He was an enormous man; when he walked into a room, people behaved like sunflowers (turn) towards the sun. With me, Ricky, as the glaring exception, my father shaped the world around him to his liking. He was also a man whose word (always respect) by everyone.



My mother (die) giving birth to me and the truth was that I always felt my father hated me a little. And why not? Had I not killed his beloved wife? The least I (+ do) was to turn out a little more like him. Was having a son who preferred poetry to sport what my father (always dream of)? When it became clear that I (not inherit) any of my father's athletic talents, he settled for trying to turn me into a passionate spectator. At first, I (- pretend) I was interested, but my father soon realised I was not, and he resigned himself to the fact that his son (+ never play) or watch football.

5. Ricky is telling a friend about a day when he made his father really happy. Complete their conversation.

Sasha: Hi Ricky! I hear you're having problems with your father. Would you tell me about it?

Ricky: Well, yes. I really need to talk to someone.

Sasha: Tell me, what's the problem?

Ricky: I really believe he doesn't love me.

Sasha: That's impossible! _____?

Ricky: Well, because I'm so different from what he expected! _____?

Sasha: _____?

Ricky: Just look at me! I'm just the opposite of him. I'm weak, I don't like sports, nobody respects me ...

Sasha: But Ricky, that's ridiculous! Many people like you a lot! _____ so?

Ricky: Of course I do. I've heard many people say you're a wonderful boy.

Ricky: Mmmm, I don't know. If they liked me so much, they would tell me so, _____?

Sasha: Well, _____ they tell you? Maybe they just don't think they need to tell you anything.

Ricky: Maybe. In fact, there was a time when my father congratulated me.

Sasha: You see, _____?

Ricky: Three years ago. There was a marathon across the town and I won gold medal.

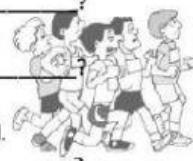
Sasha: Really? _____?

Ricky: It was really long. We had to complete 100km.

Sasha: Wow! That's really long! I'm sure your father was proud of you when they gave you the medal.

Ricky: Yes, I think he was. _____?

Sasha: Never! And I don't think I ever will! I don't like running.



6. **Composition. Write about 100 - 120 words on one of the following:**

- Write a letter to a friend telling him/her about a time when you did something that made you really proud of yourself.
OR
- An evening to remember.