

Read

- A** Read the article. What are some of the amazing features of Mt. Kilimanjaro? What are some of its problems?
- B** Read the article again. Remember: When you read, think about cause and effect: *why* and *because*.

Mount Kilimanjaro

One of the most amazing mountains in the world is in the country of Tanzania, Africa. It is Mount Kilimanjaro. This mountain is the highest in Tanzania, the highest in all of Africa, and the highest *freestanding* mountain in the world.

Freestanding means it is not part of a **mountain range**. When you measure from the base at sea level to the highest **peak**, Mt. Kilimanjaro is 5,895 meters high! It is one of the highest *walkable* mountains in the world, too. This means it is not too **steep**, so you don't need climbing equipment. You can walk up its **slopes**. But it is not an easy walk!

When you get up to a high **altitude**, you can get altitude sickness, which gives you headaches. And, the mountain is so high that it takes at least six days to get to the top!

This amazing mountain has **glaciers** and snow, which are unusual to see at the equator, where it is so hot! Over a million people live on its lower slopes. It is a very important and productive farming area because it has rich volcanic soil and a lot of rain. The mountain also has a lot of wildlife, such as buffalo, leopards, antelope, and monkeys. It has more than 1,800 kinds of flowering plants.

Unfortunately, Mt. Kilimanjaro is in danger. One problem is that the glacier is disappearing. In 1880, there were about 20 square kilometers of ice. Since 1912 about 80% of the glacier has disappeared, but

today there are less than 2 square kilometers. Glaciers are very important as a source of water for the mountain and for the land surrounding it. When the water supply is in danger, the lives of the people are threatened and so are the farms, the animals, and the plants. There are also problems with deforestation. This means that trees are cut down. Many valuable

kinds of trees grow there, and people cut down trees without a good plan for planting more.

What can be done to save Mt. Kilimanjaro? Some conservation groups are trying to educate people about how to take care of the land. Conservation groups also organize tree planting. One group planted over one million trees in just a few years! If you want to help save a mountain, you can do your part. Educate yourself and other people about the importance of mountains!

Think

What causes the farms, animals, and plants to be threatened?



Understand

Comprehension

A Circle the correct answer.

- 1 Which one is NOT an example of cause and effect?
 - a Cause: The water supply is in danger. Effect: People, farms, animals, and plants are threatened.
 - b Cause: Trees are cut down without a good plan for planting. Effect: deforestation
 - c Cause: Buffalo, leopards, and monkeys live on the mountain. Effect: There are 1,800 kinds of plants.
 - d Cause: Conservation groups educate people. Effect: People are educated, and they make better decisions.
- 2 What are two problems causing danger to Mt. Kilimanjaro?
 - a farmers and people living on the mountain
 - b the volcanoes and antelope
 - c the disappearing glacier and deforestation
 - d farmers on the mountain and disappearing glaciers
- 3 Which statement is false?
 - a There is a lot of snow near the equator.
 - b Very few people live on Mt. Kilimanjaro.
 - c There is a lot of wildlife there, such as buffalo and antelope.
 - d There is rich soil for farming and a lot of rain.
- 4 What are two ways conservation groups can help Mt. Kilimanjaro?
 - a bringing more tourists and planting more trees
 - b cutting down trees and planning for more trees
 - c bringing more glaciers and wildlife there
 - d educating people and planting trees

B What fact from this reading did you think was the most interesting?

C Words in Context Complete the paragraphs.

transformed condenses released flows stored resources

- 1 Mountains provide a lot of _____, like wood from trees. This mountain has been _____. It used to be covered with ice, and now it is not. Water _____ down from the top of the mountain to the bottom.
- 2 Water evaporates and then _____. When water drops get heavy, they are _____ as rain or snow. Some water is _____ as snow and ice.