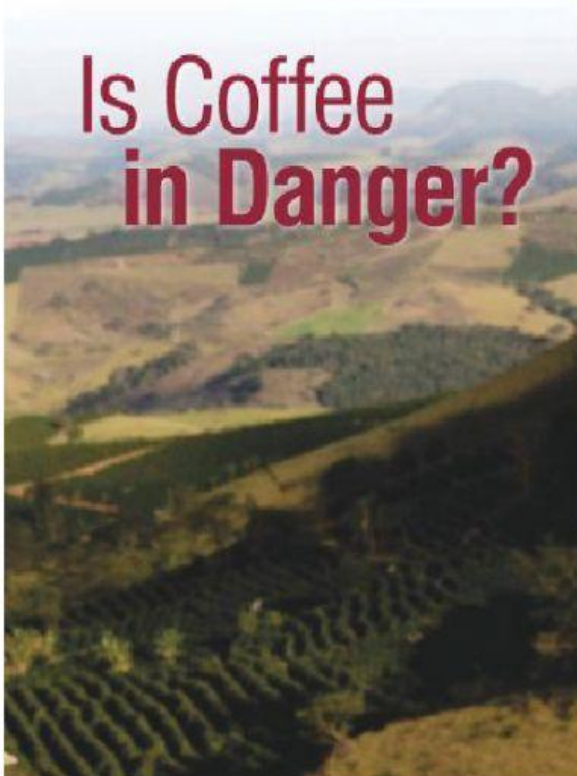
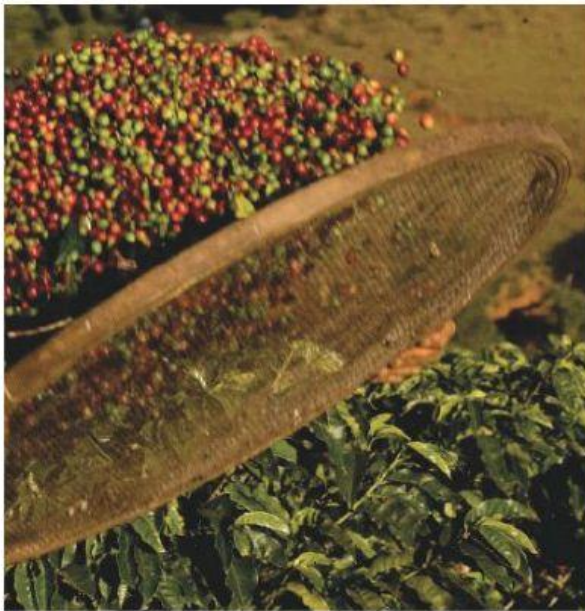


Is Coffee in Danger?



Around the world, coffee is grown in dozens of countries by 25 million farmworkers on about 27 million acres of land. That's more than seven percent of the Earth's surface! Just in Brazil, the world's largest coffee grower, almost 6.2 billion pounds of coffee are grown each year. That's the same weight as about 380,000 school buses. The world needs this much coffee because every year, people drink more than 500 billion cups. Businesses in the United States spend about \$5.5 billion to bring coffee into the country, and make more than \$12 billion by selling it. In other words, coffee is big business.

Unfortunately, climate change could be a big threat to this business and the people who depend on it. To grow good coffee, the weather must be just right. If it is too hot or too cold, or if there is too much or too little rain, the plants might die or the coffee beans might be poor quality. Climate change is making the world hotter and changing where and how much rain falls. This means many regions that have perfect weather for growing coffee now will not be good places to grow coffee in the future. In Brazil, for example, scientists say that more than half of good coffee land will not be usable by the year 2050.



Even worse for coffee, an insect called the coffee berry borer beetle that likes to eat coffee beans also loves hotter weather. This means that as the climate changes, there will be more of these insects living in more places. And if there are more coffee berry borers, more coffee plants will be attacked. They already cause \$500 million in damage each year; how much will they cause in the future? In addition, diseases such as coffee rust (a disease that causes the tree to lose its ability to produce berries/beans) become more common when the weather is hotter and wetter. In Central America in 2011, this disease began to spread from coffee farm to coffee farm. In total, it affected more than half of the land that was used for growing coffee, and 350,000 people lost their jobs.

Coffee is the favorite drink of people all over the world. But unless humans work together to stop climate change and protect coffee, it could become part of our history, not our future.

B In new pairs, discuss which numbers about coffee are correct and circle them. Then scan the first paragraph of the text to confirm your answers.

1. The amount of land on which coffee is grown (in acres):
270,000 / 27 million
2. The amount spent on coffee by US businesses (in dollars):
5.5 million / 5.5 billion
3. The money made by US businesses from coffee (in dollars):
12 billion / 12 trillion
4. The number of cups of coffee drunk by people each year:
500 million / 500 billion
5. The number of people who work on farms growing coffee:
25 million / 250 million
6. The weight of coffee grown each year (in school buses):
380,000 / 830,000

C Read the text and look at these statements. Write *T* for *true*, *F* for *false*, or *NG* if there is no information about it in the text.

- ___ 1. Coffee is grown in one quarter of the world's countries.
- ___ 2. No other country grows more coffee each year than Brazil.
- ___ 3. Coffee plants can die if they get too much rain.
- ___ 4. Farmers in Brazil plan to grow new plants before 2050.
- ___ 5. Coffee berry borer beetles make coffee plants sick.
- ___ 6. Coffee berry borer beetles cause millions in damage yearly.