PASSAGE 68

Madagascar is the fourth largest island in the world. It is located in the Indian Ocean off the southeastern coast of Africa. The country is quite poor and most people earn less than $2 a day. However, there is growing interest in the country for tourism, but at the moment very few tourists visit. Madagascar has something special which makes it very interesting for scientists and tourists alike. It has many species of plants and animals that do not exist in other countries. Between 80 and 90 percent of its animals and plants have only ever been found in Madagascar.

People have lived in Madagascar for a very long time. Most researchers believe that the first people came to the island over 2000 years ago from Borneo in the South China Sea. However, since then Arabs and East Africans, and later Malays, Javanese, Indians, Chinese and Europeans have all lived in Madagascar. The population has risen to over 20 million people and this has caused many environmental **issues.**

Nearly fifty percent of Madagascar's forests have disappeared in the last fifty years. It is even higher on the coast. Scientists have estimated that nearly 50 per cent of **its** animal and plant species are dead or will die. Madgascar's most famous animal is the lemur. Unfortunately, at least 17 species of lemur have become extinct since people arrived. Many plants and animals we know little about will be dead before we have a chance to know more about them.

Question 1: What is the main idea of the passage?

A. Madagascar has a rich history and diverse culture.

B. Madagascar is a place of unique flora and fauna.

C. Madagascar is the poorest country in Africa.

D. Madagascar's tourism industry is thriving.

Question 2: What makes Madagascar attractive to tourists?

A. Its luxury hotels and resorts for tourism.

B. Its many species of plants and animals.

C. Its rich cultural heritage and festivals.

D. Its beautiful beaches and ocean views.

Question 3: The word "**issue**" is closest in meaning to _____.

A. problem B. opportunity C. solution D. topic

Question 4: The word "**its**" in the passage refers to _____.

A. the world B. Madagascar

C. The Indian Ocean D. The population

Question 5: According to the passage, the following statements are true EXCEPT _____.

A. Most people in Madagascar earn less than $2 a day.

B. Many species in Madagascar are unique to the island.

C. Madagascar has seen a significant increase in its tourist population.

D. Deforestation is a major environmental problem in Madagascar.

Question 6: What is the main idea of the last paragraph?

A. Madagascar is home to many extinct species.

B. The history of Madagascar's inhabitants.

C. Tourists are interested in Madagascar's wildlife.

D. Environmental issues threaten Madagascar's wildlife.

LIVEWORKSHEETS