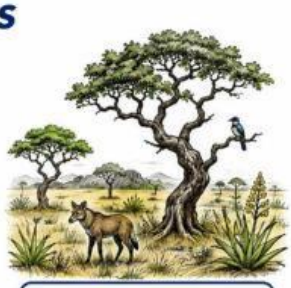
Our Planet, Our Choices

Natural Resources

Ecological Footprint

Earth Overshoot Day



The Cerrado

Speaker 1: We have a lot of information for our environmental project. Where should we start?

Speaker 2: Maybe with the 1_____ credit crunch. I think it explains the main problem clearly.

Speaker 1: Right. It happens when people use natural resources faster than the Earth can replace them.

Speaker 2: Exactly. It is similar to a financial crisis, but instead of spending too much money, we are consuming too many of the planet's resources.

Speaker 1: And the consequences are serious: 2_____, degraded soil, polluted air and water, fewer fish and other species.

Speaker 2: I was surprised to learn that humans use about thirty per cent more resources than the Earth can regenerate every year.

Speaker 1: Me too. Some predictions even say that, if our consumption habits do not change, we may need two planets to support our lifestyle.

Speaker 2: But we only have one, obviously. We should include something about ecological footprint too.

Speaker 1: Good idea. Our ecological footprint shows how much 3_____ is needed to support the way we live.

Speaker 2: So, it includes things like the food we eat, the energy we use, the house we live in and the way we travel.

Speaker 1: Yes. Someone who drives everywhere, wastes food and buys a lot of 4_____ products probably has a larger footprint.

Speaker 2: While someone with a more sustainable 5_____ may have a smaller one.

Speaker 1: We should also mention Earth Overshoot Day. Remember its meaning?

Speaker 2: That is the date when humanity has already used all the natural resources the Earth can regenerate during that year, right?

Speaker 1: Exactly. After that date, we are using more than the planet can naturally replace.

Speaker 2: In 2016, for example, 6_____ used resources equivalent to 1.6 planets.

Speaker 1: That happened because of activities such as overfishing, cutting down forests and producing too much carbon dioxide.

Speaker 2: We need a Brazilian example too. What about the Cerrado?

Speaker 1: Perfect. The Cerrado is located between the Amazon, the Atlantic Forest and the Pantanal.

Speaker 2: It covers more than twenty per cent of Brazil and is the largest 7_____ region in South America.

Speaker 1: It also has incredible biodiversity. It shelters about 8_____ of all living species on Earth and one in every 10 Brazilian species.

Speaker 2: Unfortunately, this important environment is under serious threat.

Speaker 1: Yes. Many natural habitats are being destroyed by soy production, cattle ranching and the burning of vegetation for charcoal.

Speaker 2: So, even though the Cerrado is one of the 9_____ savannah regions in the world, it is also one of the most threatened.

Speaker 1: We should not finish the presentation without suggesting some solutions.

Speaker 2: Well, we can talk about the three Rs: reduce, reuse and recycle. Remember our teacher talked about it in class?

Speaker 1: Yes, that's right! Reducing means consuming less and avoiding unnecessary waste.

Speaker 2: Reusing means finding another use for an object instead of immediately throwing it away…What about the other 'R'?

Speaker 1: That's recycling! 10_____ helps reduce the amount of rubbish that goes to landfills.

Speaker 2: These actions may seem small, but they can help protect the environment and conserve natural resources.

Speaker 1: Agreed. Let's organize the slides now.

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