

Grade 12 A EOT 3 Reading Comprehension

Read the seven texts about endangered animals and match the 5 summaries with the correct text. An example is done for you. There is one text you don't

Text A

According to some reports, there are only about 250 Arabian leopards in the wild. There was a time when this species roamed the Arabian Peninsula, but now they are heading for extinction. This animal has suffered as a direct result of a decline in numbers of its prey—the mountain gazelle and the Arabian tahr.

Text B

The islands of Marawah and Bu Tina to the west of Abu Dhabi are favourite feeding grounds for the dugong. Having suffered the effects of water pollution and getting tangled in fishing nets, this sea animal is now in danger. This is compounded by the fact that the dugong is notoriously slow to reproduce.

Text C

The entire world population of Arabian tahr is found in the mountains of northern Oman and the UAE and is thought to number less than 5000. Competing with livestock for food, these animals are not often seen these days. In the UAE, populations are localised. By isolating themselves, they will be more susceptible to disease caused by inbreeding.

Text D

In the UAE, the Sand Cat is only found in the Liwa area. By expanding agricultural areas into the desert, farmers have reduced this animal's habitat and hunting territory. Although not a threat to livestock, this animal is often caught in traps set for other predators. Market demands for exotic pets has also contributed to declining numbers.

Text E

Native to the UAE, the spiny-tailed lizard, locally known as the 'dhub', is on its way to becoming endangered. Loss of habitat has mainly been responsible for considerably reducing this native lizard species in the UAE. Additionally, in some countries in the Middle East, the lizards are also used for food and medicinal purposes.

Text F

The Socotra cormorant is only found in nine locations—all in the Middle East. The marine bird species is primarily threatened by coastal development on its breeding islands, which has led to the displacement of many colonies. Human disturbance causes parents to abandon their eggs and chicks, leaving them vulnerable to predators like gulls.

Text G

The main threats to Hawksbill turtles are habitat loss and pollution. Hawksbill turtles are also known for their beautifully coloured shells with elaborate patterns. This makes them much sought after for jewellery and ornaments sold to tourists. Despite their current protection, there is still a large amount of illegal trade in Hawksbill shells and products.

Write the letter of the text on the line. You can use each text only once. There is one text you do not need.

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| 1. Not enough food leaves animals hungry | Text ____ |
| 2. Farm traps catch species by mistake | Text ____ |
| 3 . Presence of humans puts baby birds in danger | Text ____ |
| 4. Small populations making this species sick | Text ____ |
| 5. Threatened by losing its home and use in food/medicine | Text ____ |
| 6. Threatened by human actions in the water | Text ____ |

Now scan the texts again to find the answers to these questions. Answer with one word or number from the text.

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| 7. How many Arabian leopards are there in the wild? | _____ |
| 8. What does the Arabian tahr compete with for food? | _____ |
| 9. What are Sand Cats often sold as? | _____ |
| 10. How many places can Socotra cormorants be found? | _____ |
| 11. Who often buys Hawksbill shell jewellery? | _____ |