9 The natural world

Flora and fauna, agriculture

Flora and fauna

1.1 **How many plants and animals do you know? Can you name:**

A five animals found in Africa?
.....

B five different types of flower?
.....

C five types of fruit?
.....

D five animals found in Australia?
.....

E five different types of tree?
.....

F five types of vegetable?
.....

1.2 **Are these words associated with plants or animals? Put the words into the correct column. Which word can go in both columns?**

flora fauna vegetation branch twig root coat predator beak trunk fur hide scales feathers paw claw thorn petal horn

Animals	*Plants*

Which five words in the animal column are connected to their skin or covering?

Error warning

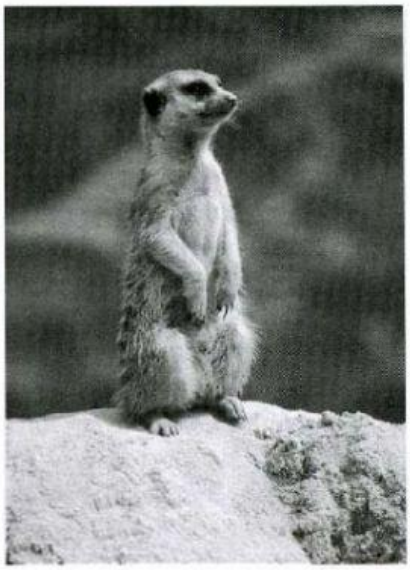
We say we must take care of ***nature***. NOT ~~*We must take care of the nature.*~~ *Natural* is the adjective form: *It is a natural process.* NOT ~~*It is a nature process.*~~

1.3 **COMPOUND NOUNS** **Complete the sentences by adding one of these words *animal, human, nature, natural* .**

1 It's *human* ..... nature ..... to want to find a solution to our problems.
2 Vegans do not use or eat any ..... *products.*
3 I would rather be served by a ..... *being* than by a computer.
4 I am constantly amazed by how beautiful and how destructive *mother* ..... can be.
5 Man is said to be the most dangerous creature of all the ..... *kingdom.*
6 Animals are much happier living in their ..... *habitat.*
7 Manmade disasters such as chemical spills can destroy the ..... *balance.*
8 In some countries prisoners are denied basic ..... *rights.*

LIVEWORKSHEETS

1.4 9a **Listen to a description of an animal called a meerkat and complete the table.**



Habitat	*Diet*
• *Found in South Africa in (1)..... areas.* • *Avoids woodland and thick (2)..... .* • *It sleeps in (3)..... .* • *If necessary, the meerkat will make a (4)..... between rocks.*	• *Meerkats mostly eat (5)..... , (6)..... and (7)..... .* • *They occasionally eat small rodents and the (8)..... of certain plants.*

Agriculture

2.1 **Which is the odd one out? Circle the word which is different from the others and say why.**

1 rose tulip daisy (weed) We want to grow the others.
2 plant grow cultivate soil .....
3 crop plant shrub bush .....
4 organic natural chemical biological .....
5 tropical subtropical humid arid .....
6 arid desert semi-arid tropical .....
7 endemic native introduced local .....

2.2 **Read the text and then decide if the statements below are true or false. Find words in the text which mean the same or the opposite of the words in bold.**

Introduced species

Since the birth of agriculture, farmers have tried to avoid using pesticides by employing various biological methods to control nature. The first method involved introducing a predator that would control pests by eating them. This was used successfully in 1925 to control the prickly pear population in Australia. The prickly pear had originally been used as a divider between paddocks. However, it eventually spread from a few farms to 4 million hectares of farming land, rendering them unusable. The Cactoblastis moth larvae was introduced to help control the situation and within ten years, the prickly pear was virtually eradicated. Further attempts at biological control weren't so successful. When farmers tried to eliminate the cane beetle by introducing the South American cane toad, the results were catastrophic. The cane toad did not eat the cane beetle and the toad population spread rapidly leading to the decline of native species of mammals and reptiles.

1 Farmers do not like using **chemicals to kill pests.** .....
2 The prickly pear was planted as a type of barrier between **fields.** .....
3 The *Cactoblastis* moth **killed off** nearly all prickly pear plants. .....
4 The cane toad was a **native** species to Australia. .....
5 Using the cane toad was **very successful.** .....

LIVEWORKSHEETS

2.3 **Now read the rest of the text and match the words in *italics* to the definitions below.**

Other introduced species have proved similarly *disastrous* among native Australian animals. Since the introduction of the cat, the fox and the rabbit from Europe, 19 species of native animals have become *extinct* and a further 250 species are considered to be either *endangered* or *vulnerable*. The modern-day approach to the biological control of pests is through *genetically modified* crops. It remains to be seen whether this controversial method will have any long-term *repercussions*, particularly in regards to the *ecological balance* of the environment where they are grown. Some fear that insects may *become resistant* to these new crops and therefore become even more difficult to control.

1 at risk .....
2 negative effects .....
3 to stop being affected by something .....
4 at risk of dying out .....
5 no longer existing .....
6 crops whose genes have been scientifically changed .....
7 extremely bad or unsuccessful .....
8 the relationship between plants, animals, land, air, and water .....

2.4 **WORD BUILDING Complete the table. You do not need to write anything in the shaded areas.**

Noun	Adjective	Adverb	Verb
agriculture	*agricultural*		
ecology			
			evolve
	extinct		..... *extinct*
nature			
	genetic		

3 **Improve the text by replacing the words in *italics* with a suitable word or phrase from this unit.**

Some farmers believe that growing [1] *fruit and vegetables* that have been [2] *changed so that their genes are different* is a good way to [3] *totally stop* pests and improve the quality of their produce. However, this type of [4] *farming* has both advantages and disadvantages.

One of the advantages is that farmers can grow plants that produce a poison that is harmful to [5] *small animals like flies and caterpillars*. This means that farmers will not have to use [6] *chemicals to kill these animals* and so this should be better for the surrounding environment and the [7] *earth that plants grow in*. As a result, it could help to protect other [8] *plants* as well as the [9] *living space* of any animals in the area.

On the other hand, farmers usually only spray their fields once or twice per year but these new plants would be toxic all year round. Furthermore, it is possible that over time the pests may [10] *stop being killed by* the toxins and so the problem would be worse than ever. The toxins may also be poisonous to other plants and animals and this would upset the [11] *way plants and animals live and grow together* and may lead to more animals becoming [12] *at risk of extinction*.

4 **PRONUNCIATION** 9b **Each of the words in the box below has a weak sound (ə) or *schwa*, e.g. *about*. Underline the schwa in each word, then listen and check your answers. Practise saying the words. There may be more than one schwa in each word.**

adapt
agriculture
catastrophe
chemical
climate
disastrous
endangered
genetically
human
natural
vulnerable

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