

Unit 6. ENDANGERED SPECIES

PART 3: READING

I. Choose the word or phrase among A, B, C or D that best fits the blank space in the following passage.

The World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) is an international (1) _____ governmental organization for the (2) _____, research, and restoration of the environment. The organization was (3) _____ as a charitable trust on September 11, 1961, in Morges, Switzerland, under the name **World Wildlife Fund**. It was an initiative of Julian Huxley and Max Nicholson.

It is the world's largest independent conservation organization with over 5 million (4) _____ worldwide, working in more (5) _____ 90 countries, supporting 100 conservation and environmental projects around the world. It is a charity, with (6) _____ 9% of its funding coming from voluntary. (7) _____ by private individuals and businesses.

The group says its mission is "to halt and reverse the (8) _____ of our environment". Currently, much of its work focuses on the conservation of three biomes that contain most of the world's biodiversity: forests, freshwater ecosystems, and oceans and coasts. Among other issues, it is also concerned (9) _____ endangered species, pollution, and climate change. The organization (10) _____ more than 20 field projects worldwide. In the last few years, the organization set up offices and operations around the world.

1. A. non	B. not	C. no	D. nor
2. A. challenge	B. keeping	C. conservation	D. awareness
3. A. produced	B. discovered	C. used	D. formed
4. A. supporters	B. residents	C. inhabitants	D. citizens
5. A. as	B. than	C. to	D. as to
6. A. generally	B. individually	C. commercially	D. approximately
7. A. deposits	B. donations	C. refunds	D. loans
8. A. destroy	B. destructive	C. destruction	D. destroyed
9. A. on	B. by	C. with	D. upon
10. A. goes	B. walks	C. reaches	D. runs

II. Fill in each numbered blank with one suitable word or phrase.

When the word "endangered" is mentioned, people usually think of particular species, like the panda or whooping crane. However, we would like to encourage you to think about (1) _____ in a broader context. It is (2) _____, the physical places where species live and interact with one another. Although the development of special breeding programs, also known as captive conservation, may help some species in some cases, it is clearly not (3) _____ answer to the global problem. Indeed, (4) _____ we are able to protect natural areas where endangered species actually live, they have no future.

Species become endangered for a wide (5) _____ of reasons. By analyzing and grouping many individual cases, however, we find the same broad causes (6) _____ again and again. They are Habitat Destruction, Exotic

Species, and Overexploitation. Among other factors threatening particular species are limited: distribution, disease, and pollution. Limited distributions are often a consequence of other threats: populations confined to one or a few small areas because of habitat (7) ___, for example, may be disastrously affected by random factors. Diseases can have severe (8) ___ on species lacking natural genetic protections against particular pathogens, like the rabies and canine distemper viruses that are currently devastating carnivore populations in East Africa. Domestic animals are usually the reservoirs of these and other diseases affecting wild (9) ___, showing once again that human activities lie at the root of most causes of endangerment. Pollution has seriously done harm (10) ___ number of terrestrial species, although species living in freshwater and marine ecosystems are also suffering.

1. A. development	B. endangerment	C. pollution	D. contamination
2. A. plants	B. conservations	C. habitats	D. organizations
3. A. a	B. an	C. the	D. Ø
4. A. so	B. but	C. if	D. unless
5. A. variety	B. commerce	C. extinction	D. destruction
6. A. expressing	B. showing	C. disappearing	D. appearing
7. A. benefit	B. reserve	C. loss	D. gone
8. A. impact	B. interest	C. infection	D. absorption
9. A. needs	B. populations	C. natures	D. medicines
10. A. to	B. for	C. with	D. at

III. Fill in the text with a suitable word in the box.

<i>appearance</i>	<i>destruction</i>	<i>well-known</i>	<i>endangered</i>	<i>evolved</i>
<i>poaching</i>	<i>extinct</i>	<i>population</i>	<i>evolutionary</i>	<i>habitats</i>

EXTINCTION IS FOREVER!

Even before the arrival of humans on the Earth, species became (1) ___ *extinct* ___ quite naturally. Natural extinction happens when a species declines in numbers gradually but steadily at the end of its (2) ___ *evolutionary* ___ period on the Earth. The length of this period depends on how well a species can adapt to changes in climate and changes in other animals and plants around it. This process of extinction can take a very long time - sometimes several million years - and the extinction of one species is immediately followed by the (3) ___ *appearance* ___ of another in a continuous cycle.

The case of the dinosaurs is the most (4) ___ *well-known* ___ example of natural extinction. These reptiles appeared on the Earth about 200 million years ago and dominated both land and sea for almost 100 million years. It is not certain why the dinosaurs became extinct, but their disappearance was a natural one and new species of animals (5) ___ *evolved* ___ to replace them.

The rate of extinction has speeded up unnaturally over the last 400 years, rising increase in the human (6) ___ *population* ___ sharply since 1900. This increase in the rate of extinction is directly related to the

over the same period of time. Humans have caused great damage to the planet, as wild (7) habitats have been taken over, forcing animals and plants into smaller and smaller areas, until some of them have become extinct. We have also polluted some habitats with chemicals, making them unfit for wildlife. These causes of extinction are known as indirect destruction.

Animals may also become extinct through direct (8) destruction. This includes the hunting and capturing of animals. The extinction of at least 500 species of animals has been caused by humans, most of them in the 20th century. Today there are about 5,000 (9) endangered animals and at least one species dies out every year. There are probably many more which become extinct without anyone knowing.

The main threats to species then can be cited as (10) poaching, habitat loss and climate change. The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has its own Red List of endangered species ranging from "least concern" through to "critically endangered".

IV. Read the text. Use the information in the story to answer the questions below by choosing the best answer A, B, C or D.

Since the world became industrialized, the number of animal species that have either become extinct or have neared extinction has increased. Bengal tigers, for instance, which once roamed the jungles in vast numbers, now number only about 2,300. By the year 2025, it is estimated that they will become extinct.

What is alarming about the case of the Bengal tiger is that this extinction will have been caused almost entirely by poachers who, according to some sources, are not always interested in material gain but in personal gratification. This is an example of the callousness that is contributing to the problem of extinction. Animals such as the Bengal tiger, as well as other endangered species, are valuable parts of the world's ecosystem. International laws protecting these animals must be enacted to ensure their survival - and the survival of our planet.

Countries around the world have begun to deal with the problem in various ways. Some countries, in an effort to circumvent the problem, have allocated large amounts of land to animals reserves. They then charge admission prices to help defray the costs of maintaining the parks, and they often must also depend on world organizations for support. This money enables them to invest in equipment and patrols to protect the animals. Another response to the increase in animal extinction is an international boycott of products made from endangered species. This has had some effect, but by itself it will not prevent animals from being hunted and killed.

1. The word "callousness" could be best replaced by which of the following?
A. incompetence B. indirectness C. insensitivity D. independence
2. The previous passage is divided into two paragraphs in order to contrast ____.
A. A comparison and a contrast B. A problem and a solution
C. A statement and an illustration D. Specific and general information
3. What is the main topic of the passage?
A. Endangered species B. Problems with industrialization

V. Read the following passage and mark the letter A, B, C or D on your answer sheet to indicate the correct answer to each of the questions from 1 to 10.

Plants and animals will find it difficult to escape from or adjust to the effect of global warming. Scientists have already observed shifts in the lifecycles of many plants and animals, such as flowers blooming earlier and birds hatching earlier in the spring. Many species have begun shifting where they live or their annual migration patterns due to warmer temperatures

With further warming, animals will tend to migrate toward the poles and up mountainsides toward higher elevations. Plants will also attempt to shift their ranges, seeking new areas as old habitats grow too warm. In many places, however, human development will prevent these shifts. Species that find cities or farmland blocking their way north or south may become extinct. Species living in unique ecosystems, such as those found in polar and mountainous regions, are especially at risk because migration to new habitats is not possible. For example, polar bears and marine mammals in the Arctic are already threatened by dwindling sea ice but have nowhere farther to go.

Projecting species extinction due to global warming is extremely difficult. Some scientists have estimated that 20 to 50 percent of species could be committed to extinction with 2 to 3 Celsius degrees of further warming. The rate of warming, not just the magnitude, is extremely important for plants and animals. Some species and even entire ecosystems, such as certain types of forest, may not be able to adjust quickly enough and may disappear.

Ocean ecosystems, especially **fragile** ones like coral reefs, will also be affected by global warming. Warmer ocean temperatures can cause coral to "bleach", a state which if prolonged will lead to the death of the coral. Scientists estimate that even 1 Celsius degree of additional warming could lead to widespread bleaching and death of coral reefs around the world. Also increasing carbon dioxide in the atmosphere enters the ocean and increases the acidity of ocean waters. This acidification further stresses ocean ecosystems.

1. The word "**fragile**" in paragraph 4 most probably means ____.
A. very large B. easily damaged C. rather strong D. pretty hard
2. The bleaching of coral reefs as mentioned in paragraph 4 indicates ____.
A. the water absorption of coral reefs. B. the quick growth of marine mammals.
C. the blooming phase of sea weeds. D. the slow death of coral reefs.
3. The level of acidity in the ocean is increased by ____.
A. the rising amount of carbon dioxide entering the oceans
B. the decrease of acidity of the pole
C. the extinction of species in coastal areas
D. the loss of acidity in the atmosphere around the oceans
4. What does the passage mainly discuss?
A. Influence of climate changes on human B. Effects of global warming on animals and
C. Global warming and possible solutions D. Global warming and species
5. Scientists have observed that warmer temperatures in the spring cause flowers to ____.
A. die instantly B. bloom earlier C. become lighter D. lose color
6. According to paragraph 2, when their habitats grow warmer, animalist tend to move ____.
A. south-eastwards and down mountainsides toward lower
B. north-westwards and up mountainsides toward higher
C. toward the North Pole and down mountainsides toward lower
D. toward the poles and up mountainsides toward higher
7. The pronoun "**those**" in paragraph 2 refers to ____.
A. species B. ecosystems C. habitats D. areas
8. The phrase "**dwindling sea ice**" in paragraph 2 refers to ____.

9. It is mentioned in the passage that if the global temperature rose by 2 or 3 Celsius degrees ____.

- A. half of the earth's surface would be
- B. the sea level would rise by 20
- C. water supply would decrease by 50
- D. 20 to 50 percent of species could become

10. According to the passage, if some species are not able to adjust quickly to warmer temperatures, ____.

- A. they may be endangered
- B. they can begin to develop
- C. they will certainly need water.
- D. they move to tropical forests.