

A Choose a, b or c to complete the text.

The pollution of the atmosphere by industrial emissions and the greenhouse effect are bringing about noticeable changes in the Earth's (1) _____.

In spring, for example, when one would expect the weather to be (2) _____, there is frost on the (3) _____, or it snows at the beginning of May, something which happened a few years ago.

Sometimes, long rainy spells are followed by unbearable (4) _____ which cause serious (5) _____. This often results in major crop failure. In many places, summers are cold and rainy, and the danger of (6) _____ is always present.

There are also winters, like the last one, when the temperature hardly ever (7) _____ below zero, and many plants are already (8) _____ in the middle of January. Unusual as it seems, it's true!

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|-----------------|---------------|--------------|
| 1. A. climate | B. soil | C. nature |
| 2. A. freezing | B. warm | C. foggy |
| 3. A. dirt | B. atmosphere | C. ground |
| 4. A. waves | B. hot | C. heatwaves |
| 5. A. dryness | B. droughts | C. showers |
| 6. A. hurricane | B. hail | C. flooding |
| 7. A. drops | B. drips | C. rises |
| 8. A. in bloom | B. blossom | C. planted |

**B** Complete the sentences with the words in the box. There is one extra word.

damage biodegradable disaster stung rise endangered aware
protect extinct dangerous

- After a week of heavy rains and cold weather, there will be a _____ in temperature next week.
- We can all _____ the environment by using _____ packaging.
- If the pace of environmental destruction does not slow down, some animal species will become _____.
- Many birds and sea animals died in an environmental _____ caused by a huge oil spill.
- People worldwide are gradually becoming more _____ of ecological problems.
- Certain animals, such as seals or sea turtles, are considered to be _____ species and may soon die out.
- The development of various industries is causing more and more _____ to the environment.
- Being _____ by a wasp can be very painful.

C Complete the sentences with your own ideas.

- My favourite season of the year is _____ because _____.
- I think the greatest threat to the environment is _____.
- In my opinion, animals should/shouldn't be kept in zoos because _____.
- _____ are the most dangerous natural disasters because _____.
- What we can do to help survivors of an earthquake is _____.
- The biggest environmental problem for future generations will be _____.

D Match the words / expressions with their definitions.

1. wilderness
2. ozone
3. victim
4. survivor
5. carbon dioxide
6. nature reserve
7. tsunami
8. extinction
9. acid rain
10. downpour

- a. rain that contains chemicals from factory gases and destroys the environment
- b. a very large wave that causes a lot of damage
- c. a gas which people and animals breathe out from their lungs
- d. someone who has been affected by a bad situation or event
- e. an area of land where no people live and there are no buildings
- f. the disappearance of a species of animal or plant
- g. rain that falls fast and heavily
- h. a gas which blocks the ultraviolet radiation from the sun
- i. a large area of land where plants and animals are protected
- j. someone who is still alive in spite of experiencing a situation or event that could have killed him or her

E Circle the odd one out.

- | | | | | |
|-------------|-------------|-------------|----------|------------|
| 1. urban | humid | picturesque | rural | rocky |
| 2. foggy | rainy | windy | cloudy | snowing |
| 3. severe | mountainous | mild | tropical | wet |
| 4. downpour | rain | frost | drizzle | shower |
| 5. mosquito | bee | fly | hare | butterfly |
| 6. eagle | stork | wasp | pigeon | swan |
| 7. tulip | oak | daisy | poppy | daffodil |
| 8. rabbit | lizard | giraffe | seal | wolf |
| 9. hamster | seagull | tortoise | dog | guinea pig |
| 10. cock | hen | goat | goose | fox |

F In pairs, act out the dialogue.

Student A

You are a member of the local government. One day members of an environmental group visit your office to ask you to give permission for a peaceful protest against building a motorway near a nature reserve. Try to discourage them, giving reasons for your disapproval of this idea.

Student B

You are a member of an environmental group that wants to campaign against building a motorway near a nature reserve. You visit the office of a member of the local government to ask for permission to organise a peaceful protest. Give reasons why the motorway mustn't be built. Use your imagination!

