

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!

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 _____.

Vocabulary Practice

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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!

