

# THE FUTURE OF THE WORLD'S ENDANGERED SPECIES

1 An endangered **species** is a species that is at risk of becoming extinct. It might be at risk because its territory is threatened, or because there are very few mature individuals left.

2 The natural extinction rate would be 1–5 species per year. The current rate could be as high as 2,000 per year. There are at least 25,000 species in danger of extinction right now.

3 Every species plays a part in the global **ecosystem**. They also provide humans with food, medicines and materials for building and clothing. Moreover, they all have their own unique value and beauty.

4 Humans are to blame for the problem. Animal **habitats** are destroyed by **pollution** and climate change. Humans have also **hunted** or fished many animals so much that the populations cannot recover by **reproduction**.

5 If we don't want extinction to go on at its current rate, we need to support the organizations that are working to **conserve** endangered species and their natural habitats. We also need to stop buying products that damage the environment. This will help to preserve the diversity of life on our planet.

3 **EXAM TASK** Read the texts. Match choices (A–H) to (1–5). There are three choices you do not need.

- A All species are important \_\_\_\_\_
- B No turning back \_\_\_\_\_
- C Shocking statistics \_\_\_\_\_
- D International agreements may help \_\_\_\_\_
- E What makes a species endangered? \_\_\_\_\_
- F Ways to help \_\_\_\_\_
- G Funding for environmental projects \_\_\_\_\_
- H Harm caused by people \_\_\_\_\_

## Words in context

5 Look at the highlighted words in the texts. Choose the correct words to complete their definitions (1–7).

- 1 species: a group of animals or plants that *share characteristics/belong to an area*
- 2 reproduce: produce *a new species/young animals or plants*
- 3 ecosystem: *the animals and plants that live in/the climate of* a place
- 4 habitat: the *environment/development* of a plant or animal
- 5 pollution: *improvement of/damage to* water, air or soil by adding substances
- 6 hunt: *chase and kill/buy and keep* animals
- 7 conserve: *protect/help* something

6 Complete the sentences (1–7) with words from exercise 5. Use the correct forms.

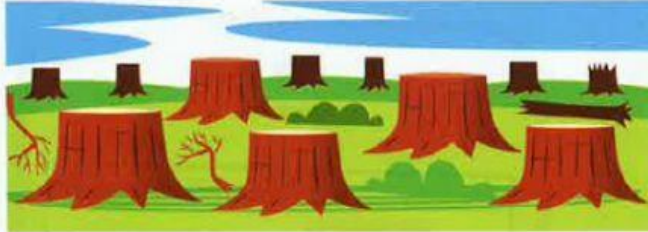
- 1 The bamboo forests of western China are the natural \_\_\_\_\_ of the panda.
- 2 \_\_\_\_\_ of our seas and oceans by land waste is a huge problem for marine life.
- 3 There are two \_\_\_\_\_ of elephants: African and Asian.
- 4 Tigers are \_\_\_\_\_ illegally because every part of their body can be sold.
- 5 Female gorillas usually begin to \_\_\_\_\_ at the age of ten and they usually have one baby every four years.
- 6 If we don't \_\_\_\_\_ these islands, many animals will disappear for ever.
- 7 There is more diversity of animal and plant life in rainforests than in any other kind of \_\_\_\_\_.

## Use the First Conditional.

Choose the correct alternative.



- 1 If we don't/won't recycle paper now, we need/will need to cut down more trees in the future.



- 2 If we cut/will cut down more trees, the forests disappear/will disappear.



- 3 There are/will be more deserts if the forests disappear/will disappear.



- 4 If there are/will be more deserts, the planet becomes/will become hotter.



- 5 Many plants and animals die/will die if the planet becomes/will become hotter.

Put the verbs in the correct tenses using the first conditional.

'If we (a) ..... (not do) something soon, electronic products (b) ..... (create) serious problems for the environment. We use more and more energy because we buy more and more electronic gadgets. If this situation (c) ..... (continue), each house (d) ..... (need) an incredible quantity of energy. The popularity of computers, tablets and mobile phones has created an enormous need for more power. In the 1970s homes contained, on average, just 17 electronic products. But now some people think that they (e) ..... (not be) able to brush their teeth if they (f) ..... (not have) an electric toothbrush. If we (g) ..... (forget) to switch off all these electronic gadgets, we (h) ..... (use) up all of our electricity for nothing.'

## Use Zero Conditional

Complete these sentences with the correct form of the verbs given.

- 1 If it's sunny, people often ..... (go) to the beach.
- 2 If it ..... (not rain) for months, the result is usually a drought.
- 3 If it rains a lot for months, there ..... (be) often floods.
- 4 If you don't water plants, they ..... (die).
- 5 If it ..... (be) very sunny, it's bad for your eyes.
- 6 If the sun ..... (shine) all day, the temperature goes up.