

NATURE AND CLIMATE

READING

4. Read the following paragraphs. Complete them with the missing words. Do the paragraphs mention any environmental problems that are not in the list you wrote at the beginning of the lesson?

threats / pollutants / waste / greed / consumption

1) Human greed

It is us, people, who are the 1) _____ of most environmental problems below. People are the reason why the climate changes. Human _____ and disrespect for the rest of the world combined with uncontrolled resource and energy 2) _____ and armed conflicts and wars are the most serious 3) _____ to nature regionally and locally. Humans negatively impact the environment through industrial 4) _____ dumped in waterways and destroying forest.

developing / diseases / drinking / issues / population

2) Poverty in the developing world

More than 80 percent of the world's 1) _____ lives in extreme poverty in slums or in rural areas of 2) _____ countries. Bad situation and lack of 3) _____ water, good food and wood for cooking lead to serious environmental 4) _____. Infectious 5) _____ continue to blight the lives of the poor across the world.

resources / growing / result / amounts

3) Growing human population

Global human population growth 1) _____ to around 83 million annually. Today over 7 billion people live on the Earth and the 2) _____ is huge pressure on the world's 3) _____. It is expected to keep 4) _____, and estimates have put the total population at 8.6 billion by 2030.

polluted / damaging / produce / controversial / harmful

4) Unsustainable agriculture

People need to eat, but the way we 1) _____ our food today raises a number of 2) _____ issues about the environment. Water is 3) _____ with fertilizers and pesticides. Genetically modified crops are not only 4) _____ for human health, they are 5) _____ for the environment.

deforestation / supports/ exploitation / destruction / threatened / impact

5) Biodiversity loss

Biodiversity 1) _____ the health of the planet and has a direct 2) _____ on all our lives. The 3) _____ of forests for wood, fuel and agricultural land has led to massive 4) _____. It is a major contributor to the fast loss of plant and animal species. Similarly, life in oceans which 5) _____ the greatest variety of life on earth is 6) _____ by overfishing, petrochemicals, coastal development, the effects of climate change and many other factors.

5. Match the two halves of the sentences. Choose one and illustrate it with some real-life examples.

1) A great number of environmental problems	a) pollution is industry.
2) More than 1 billion people in the world	b) threatened by overfishing.
3) Soon there will be lack of	c) pressure on resources.
4) Life in oceans is	d) live in extreme poverty.
5) Climate change is	e) caused by deforestation.
6) The fast loss of species is	f) one of the most challenging issues facing humanity.
7) The major contributor to air	g) are caused by people.
8) The growing human population puts	h) clean fresh water in some regions of the world.