

Reading Practice Set 1 – Add Text and Table Completion

Directions: Read the passage. Give yourself 10 minutes to complete this practice set.

Consequences of Deforestation

The tropical rainforests play a crucial role in sustaining life on our planet. They are vitally important to the environment. However, the rainforests are being depleted at a dramatic rate. Recent estimates are that deforestation has reduced the amount of tree cover on our planet by more than 50 percent. Forests are cut down for many reasons, but most of them are related to increase in human population.

A major contributing factor is the clearing of land for agriculture. [1] ■ Farmers cut down forests to cultivate crops or to provide grazing land for their livestock. [2] ■ When trees are cut down for agriculture, they are not replaced with new trees. [3] ■ Not only animal species, but also plants with as yet undiscovered potential medicinal uses are destroyed with resulting decrease in biodiversity.

[4] The preservation of animal and plant species is essential for maintaining the future sustainability of life on our planet.

A second cause of deforestation of the rainforests is the logging industry that supplies wood for manufacturing and paper production. Large-scale logging has destroyed huge areas of the rainforest and **this** has led to a degradation of soil conditions. Trees not only provide shade and protection that keep soil moist, their roots also hold the soil together preventing erosion. Land that has been cleared for cultivation easily becomes barren and more **susceptible** to damage from floods and droughts.

Trees play an important role in absorbing greenhouse gases. Without trees, larger amounts of greenhouse gases enter the atmosphere and contribute to air pollution and global warming. Trees are also very important in the process of precipitation. The leaves of the trees contribute humidity to the atmosphere through the process of transpiration. Fewer trees mean that there is a reduction in humidity in the air, which affects not only the local ecosystem, but weather patterns globally, potentially harming agricultural production around the world.

Directions: Answer the questions.

1. In paragraph 1, the author mentions the increase in human population in order to
 - show that trees are important to the planet.
 - make the point that deforestation is harmful.
 - argue that deforestation is unnecessary.
 - explain why trees are being cut down.
2. The word **susceptible** in the passage is closest in meaning to
 - predictable.
 - vulnerable.
 - resistant.
 - sufficient.

LEAP INTO ENGLISH

TOEFL PREPARATION COURSE

3.

Look at the four squares [■] that indicate where the following sentence can be added to the passage. Where would the sentence best fit?

As a result, the natural habitats for many unique wildlife species are permanently lost.

Answer _____

4. Complete the table to summarize the effects of deforestation on the environment. Match seven of the nine statements to the correct column.

Statements

1. Damage from severe weather
2. Increased pollution and reduced rainfall
3. Land becomes dry
4. Loss of food production
5. Prevent soil from becoming dry
6. Rise in Earth's temperature
7. Species of animals and plants disappear
8. Trees absorb greenhouse gases
9. Wildlife habitats are destroyed

Consequences	Causes