UNIT 6: WEATHER AND CLIMATE

READING SKILLS

Exercise 1: Using knowledge to predict content

Read the title and the first line of the text. Read the statements below. Do you think the statements are true or false? You will be able to check your answers in exercise 2.

> **The Supertrees of Singapore**
>
> **Sayeed Khan reports on an unusual idea to protect the environment in South East Asia.**

1 Singapore is a large country with a small population.

2 The climate is always hot in Singapore.

3 The article is probably about nature and the environment in Singapore.

4 The word 'Supertrees' is unusual.

5 The article is probably a story about a tourist's visit to Singapore.

6 'Supertrees' are probably smaller than normal trees.

Exercise 2: Using knowledge to predict content (2)

Read the text and choose true or false for the statements.

The Supertrees of Singapore

Sayeed Khan reports on an unusual idea to protect the environment in South East Asia.

A _____

Singapore is a small island with a hot, tropical climate. The temperature is always around 30 ºC, and the average rainfall every year is more than 200cm. The population is over

5 million, and there are more than 7,500 people living in every km^2.



B _____

LIVEWORKSHEETS

However, there is one green space full of trees in Singapore's city centre, and it is loved by visitors. It is a huge park, and its name is Gardens by the Bay. It is as big as 190 football fields, and includes thousands of trees, plants and fish from all around the world.

C _____

However, 18 of the trees in this park are not real. They are made from plastic and metal. These are the 'Supertrees', and each one is huge. They are all between 25–50 metres tall, and are larger than the real trees in the park. They look strange, and they are covered in more than 160,000 plants and flowers. However, many people think that they are beautiful, especially at night when they are covered in lights.

D _____

The Supertrees are like real trees, because they help protect the environment around them. They collect rainwater, and this slowly gives water to all the other plants. It also helps the temperature fall in the park, and visitors near the Supertrees don't feel so hot. They also have special solar panels, which catch light from the sun, and change it into electricity. This electricity is used across the whole park.

E _____

Of course, the Supertrees are very expensive to build (the whole park cost 1 billion Singapore dollars (US$784 million) to complete). Many people think that it is better to spend money on nature, on real trees, than on plastic ones.

F _____

However, most people in the world today live in cities. These cities are getting bigger, and there is less and less space for nature. With the Supertrees, Singapore hopes to teach people that it is important to think about our climate, and where we live, and to find new ways to protect the environment.

1 Singapore is a large country with a small population.

◯ True

◯ False

2 The climate is always hot in Singapore.

◯ True

◯ False

3 The article is about nature and the environment in Singapore.

◯ True

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◯ False

4 The word 'Supertrees' is unusual.

◯ True

◯ False

5 The article is a story about a tourist's visit to Singapore.

◯ True

◯ False

6 'Supertrees' are smaller than normal trees.

◯ True

◯ False

Exercise 3: Reading for main ideas

Read the text. Choose a heading for each paragraph.

	A	B	C	D	E	F
An unusual type of tree						
A popular place to go						
A problem with the Supertrees						
Some facts about Singapore						
Thinking about the future						
How the Supertrees help						

LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT

Exercise 4: Reading for detail

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Put the correct answer under each question.

Our cities are becoming more crowded.	It does not use energy. It creates energy.
It is bigger than usual.	The money can be used for something else.
It is one of the most crowded countries in the world.	

1 Why is Singapore special?

_____ .

2 What does 'super' mean in the word 'Supertree'

_____ .

3 How does a Supertree help the environment?

_____ .

4 Why do some people disagree with building the Supertree?

_____ .

5 Why is it important to think of new ideals to help our environment?

_____ .

LIVEWORKSHEETS