

VOCABULARY PRACTICE

Vocabulary

The animal kingdom

- 1a Write the words in the box in the correct place in the table. Then think of one more animal to add in each category.

alligator ant butterfly eagle gorilla lizard lobster
octopus owl sheep

Reptiles	Mammals	Insects	Sea creatures	Birds

- b Which of the animals in Exercise 1a are domestic animals? Which are wild animals? Do you know if any of these animals are endangered?

- 2 Complete the sentences with the words in the box.

colouring feathers fur habitat life cycle nest
species wings

- Some _____ of animal are dying out because humans are destroying their natural _____, so they no longer have a place to live.
- This diagram shows the _____ of a salmon from the egg stage to adulthood.
- Many people are against the _____ trade – that is, the buying and selling of animal's coats.
- Penguins are an example of a bird that uses its _____ to swim instead of fly.
- It is illegal in some countries to steal eggs from a bird's _____ in the wild.
- The _____ of a horse can be anything from black or white to brown and grey.
- Male and female birds often have different coloured _____.

Geographical features

- 3a Look at the words in the box and answer the questions. You can use the words more than once.

beach coast desert forest hill island lake
mountain ocean rainforest river sea waterfall
wood

- Which of the features contain water?
- Which are next to or surrounded by water?
- Which contain many trees and plants?
- Which contain sand?
- Which are high?

- b Complete the descriptions with the correct form of the words in bold.

- 1 beach / coast / ocean / island

My country is a(n) _____ in the Indian _____.
It has a long _____ with many beautiful _____.

- 2 hill / mountain

The area where I live is quite flat; there aren't any _____ – just a few _____, which aren't very high.

- 3 rainforest / river

Many tourists to my country visit the _____, where they can see all sorts of plants and animals. The best way to get there is on a three-hour boat trip up the _____.

- 4 sea / waterfall

An important natural attraction in my country is a _____ which is over 200 metres high and empties into the _____.

- 5 desert / forest

Much of my country is _____ and it is very dry. You rarely see trees except in the city, and we do not have any _____.

- 6 wood / lake

A popular tourist attraction in my country is a beautiful _____ where you can do water sports. It is next to a(n) _____ where people often camp.

- c Work in pairs and discuss the questions.

- Which of the geographical features in Exercise 3b do you have in your country? Which do you not have?
- Can you name an example of each geographical feature which is not in your country?

Verbs

- 4a Choose the correct options in *italics* to complete the sentences.

- You should never *pick* / *plant* flowers from the wild – they're better left where they are.
- People should be allowed to *hunt* / *fish* in any lake and river.
- It's impossible to *protect* / *farm* all endangered plants and animals.
- The government should give more help and money to people who *farm* / *grow* the land.
- I think *growing* / *hunting* animals is cruel and should be forbidden.
- If they have a garden, people should *pick* / *grow* their own vegetables.
- Farmers should only *plant* / *pick* crops in a way which is good for the environment.

- b Work in pairs. Do you agree or disagree with the statements in Exercise 4a? Give reasons for your answers.

READING PRACTICE

Reading (Matching sentence endings)



Before you read

1 Work in groups and discuss the questions.

- 1 What plants do you know of that can help when someone is not well?
- 2 What animals can you think of that have provided people with things that have a medical value?

Test practice

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2a Read the test task. What do you need to do? Number steps A–E in the best order (1–5).

- A Find where the first part of each sentence is mentioned in the passage.
- B Read the passage quickly.
- C Match the sentence beginnings with the endings.
- D Read the sentence beginnings, underline the key words and think about what kind of information is needed to finish each sentence.
- E Look in the passage for the information that completes each sentence.

Questions 1–6.

Complete each sentence with the correct ending A–G below.

- 1 It is many thousands of years since
- 2 People are often very surprised to learn that
- 3 Scientists estimate that
- 4 Destroying different ecosystems means that
- 5 What is making the problem worse is the fact that
- 6 The writer thinks the situation will improve if

- A many potential cures will disappear forever.
- B some of the most medically valuable species do not seem very attractive.
- C natural medicines can be more effective than modern drugs.
- D medical students learn more about the development of treatments.
- E people discovered how powerful natural substances can be.
- F researching new treatments takes considerable time.
- G many possible medicines from the natural world are still unknown.
- H medical knowledge is not growing quickly enough to fight new diseases.
- I modern medicine still makes so much use of nature.

► HELP

- 1 'Many thousands of years since' tells you that you are looking for something that happened a long time ago.
- 2 Find a word in the passage that means 'very surprised'.

b Complete the test task.

Task analysis

3 Work in pairs and discuss the questions.

- 1 Did you follow the steps in Exercise 2a? If not, what steps did you follow?
- 2 Did you underline the parts of the passage where you found the answers?

Discussion

4 What do you think we need to do to make sure that nature continues to help medical science?

Remedies from nature

In all the discussions about saving the world's biodiversity from extinction, people often forget one point: the world's species provide people with a large number of life-saving medicines.

Animal and plant species have given people important medicines such as quinine and aspirin, as well as many cancer and HIV-fighting drugs. People have used plants and animals as sources of medicine for thousands of years. For example, medicinal plants that people used over 60,000 years ago were found in an Iraqi cave site. A fur strap found on the arm of a 5,000 year-old Ice Man from the Alps contained a type of *fungus which is able to kill bacteria.

Most people are amazed to discover that our dependence on nature for health has not reduced. Over the past quarter century, more than half of all the products that drug companies have developed actually use, or copy, substances from the natural world. Moreover, the World Health Organization estimates that in many developing countries, 80 percent of the population relies on traditional medicines from natural sources.

However, scientists generally believe that researchers have fully examined less than one percent of all species in order to discover their possible uses in medical treatments. They believe that nature still holds many valuable cures for research to discover. In particular, they point to the importance of tropical rainforests as a potential source of new medicines. Although rainforests cover only six percent of the earth's land surface, they contain over half of its *biodiversity.

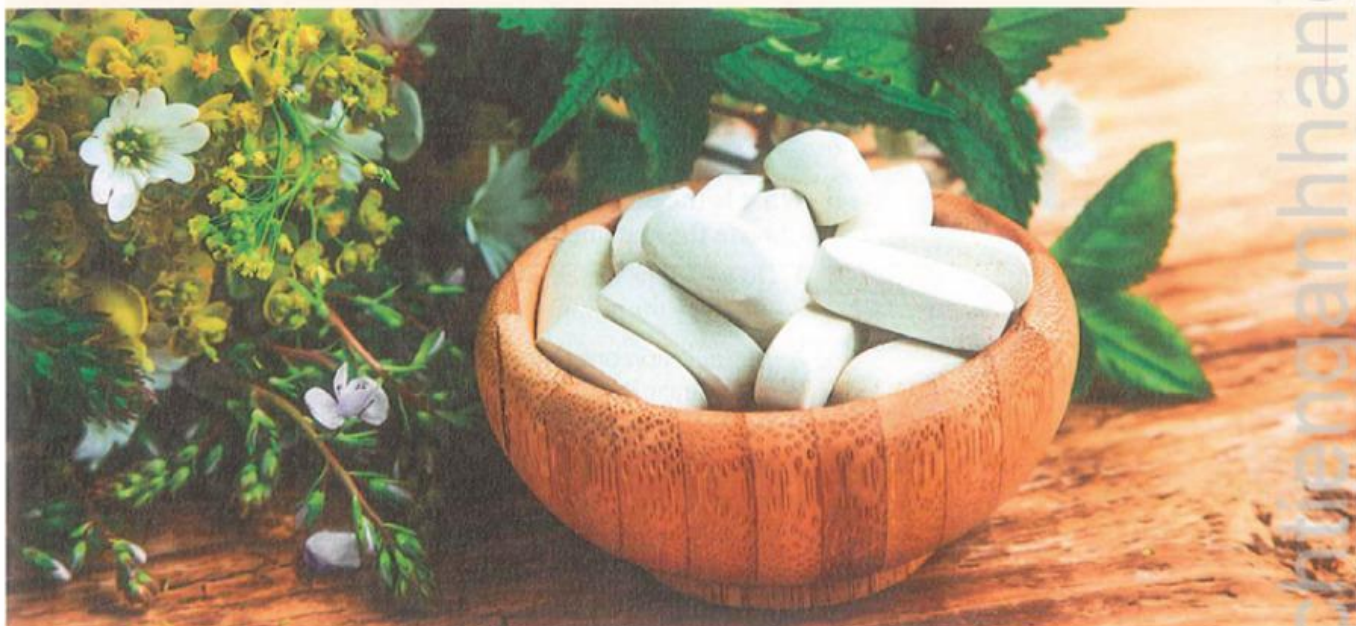
Unfortunately, the ecosystems that provide some of the world's most important drugs, such as rainforests and coral reefs, are also the ecosystems that are

most at risk today. There are concerns that warming temperatures mean that few coral reefs will remain by the end of the century. Meanwhile, agriculture and various major development projects are making the world's rainforests vanish at an alarming rate - the world is losing more than 320 km² every day. The inevitable result is that many species with important medicinal powers will become extinct.

Another problem is that most of nature's medicines do not come from big and beautiful mammals, such as tigers and elephants. Instead, they come from the least popular of the world's ecosystems: plants, fungi and *invertebrates. Some particularly valuable species are often either poisonous or so small that we cannot see them without a microscope. This makes campaigning for their *preservation much more difficult.

An additional problem is the fact that medical schools teach their students very little about the discovery of new treatments. Few young doctors, for example, know that the blood pressure medicine captopril, one of the best-selling drugs of all time, comes from the poison of a Brazilian snake. Antibiotics, most of which come from nature, are a miracle drug but doctors use far too many of them. This is partly because they do not realise the dangers involved or how closely connected these drugs are with the natural world.

Nature and medicine are closely connected. We must protect nature. If we don't, we not only risk losing many plant and animal species but we are also risking our own health.



*fungus: a simple type of plant that has no leaves or flowers and grows on plants or other surfaces

*biodiversity: the variety of plants and animals in a particular place

*invertebrate: an animal that does not have a backbone

*preservation: when you keep something in its original state or in good condition