Reading

1 **Look at the list of environmental problems. Which ones are the most serious in your area/country?**

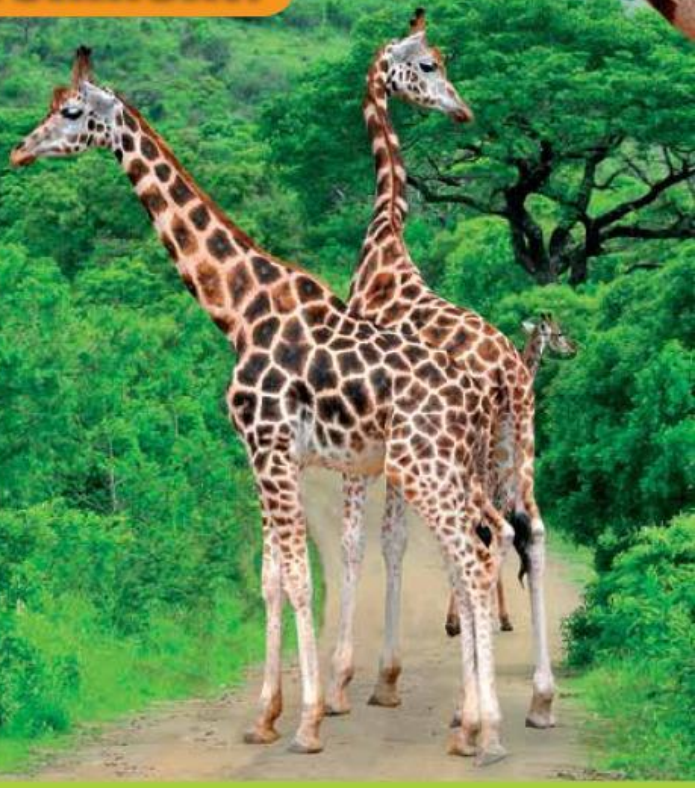
- acid rain
- destruction of forests
- drinking water quality
- drought
- endangered species
- floods
- nuclear accidents
- oil spills at sea
- polluted beaches
- smog

2 **Choose one of the problems from 1 and explain to a partner how it affects us and the planet we live on.**

3 **Read the texts quickly. What do the people involved in the environmental projects all have in common?**

Teens Saving the Environment!

Read about these amazing teenagers and their incredible ideas.



A

16-year-old Nadav Ossendryver is the creator of Kruger Sightings, a website that follows wildlife such as lions, rhinos, elephants, giraffes and leopards in Kruger National Park in South Africa. The website started as a blog where Nadav wrote about the best places to see the animals. Nadav now collects information provided by visitors to Kruger National Park, who use their mobile phones to send updates to Kruger Sightings when they see one of the park's many animals. This lets other visitors find the animals more easily. The site also does its best to protect rhinos from people who want to kill them for their valuable horns, which is a growing problem at the park. It provides visitors with contact numbers to report such incidents.

www.latestsightings.com

B

Plastic is useful because it is strong and it lasts a long time. Unfortunately, those qualities also make plastic a disaster for the environment because it takes 1,000 years for this man-made material to break down. With 500 billion plastic bags being made every year and the Great Pacific Garbage Patch* growing bigger by the day, we clearly need a way to make the plastic break down faster. In 2009, that's exactly what 16-year-old student Daniel Burd did. He identified two types of bacteria that work together to decompose plastic. He experimented with the bacteria at different temperatures and managed to break down 43 per cent of the plastic in only six weeks, a major scientific breakthrough.

* an area estimated to be twice the size of Texas in the ocean, full of plastic

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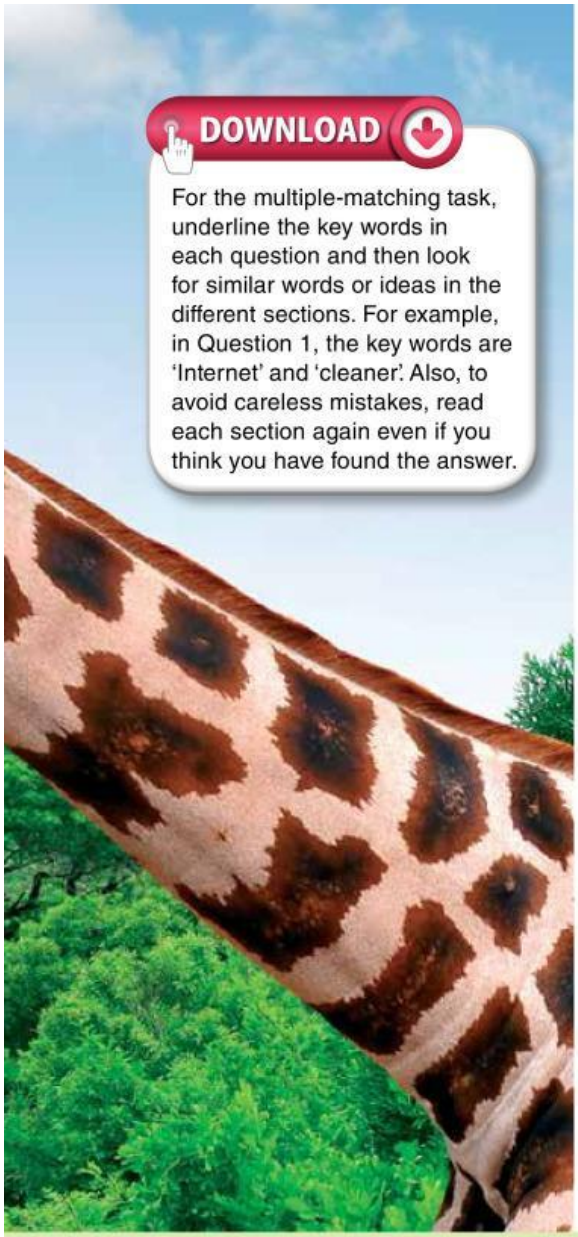

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For the multiple-matching task, underline the key words in each question and then look for similar words or ideas in the different sections. For example, in Question 1, the key words are 'Internet' and 'cleaner'. Also, to avoid careless mistakes, read each section again even if you think you have found the answer.

4 Read the texts again to find the following information.

Which paragraph

mentions using the Internet to keep the planet cleaner?	1 ☐
talks about mistakes made in the past?	2 ☐
describes a place where nature can be appreciated?	3 ☐
mentions a project that makes money?	4 ☐
explains where some household rubbish ends up?	5 ☐
describes an animal that is in danger?	6 ☐
suggests a way to express your view about something?	7 ☐
explains an important discovery?	8 ☐
mentions using lawyers to solve a problem?	9 ☐
describes how to reuse useful rubbish?	10 ☐

5 Complete each sentence with two of these words.

fossil fuels incidents landfill march waste wildlife

1 Last Sunday, thousands of people attended the _____ to protest about whaling. They were peaceful and the police reported no violent _____.

2 Burning _____ such as coal and oil to produce energy causes air pollution. This in turn causes climate change, which is harmful to humans and _____.

3 Understandably, the residents are very concerned about the government's plans to create a _____ in the area. No one wants huge amounts of _____ on their doorstep!

6 Work with a partner. Create your own environmental organisation. Give it a name and draw a logo. What sort of environmental issues will your group deal with?

C In 2010, the US produced 2.4 million tons of e-waste, with a huge amount of that being mobile phones. Jason Lin, a 15-year-old high school student, learnt about this problem at school and set up a business to reduce e-waste by keeping old gadgets out of landfills. He and his friends run an e-waste recycling business from their website iReTron.com. People sell their old gadgets to Lin; he and his team then fix them and resell them online. Although there are good e-cyclers like Lin, some just ship the waste to other countries. There, it becomes an environmental and health risk, creating deadly conditions wherever it is dumped. With iReTron, consumers make money on their gadget, iReTron makes a profit and electronics don't end up in a landfill.

D 19-year-old Alec Loorz is the founder of Kids vs Global Warming and the organiser of the iMatter March. In 2011, he took the US to court for not doing enough to protect the atmosphere for future generations. According to Alec, when we began burning fossil fuels last century, we didn't know the terrible consequences. Now, however, we do, so there is no excuse for continuing the destruction. He believes that future generations have a right to inherit a clean planet and that the government has a responsibility to protect that future for our children, and to recognise that the future matters. If you agree with Alec, you can join an iMatter march and let the government know what you think.

www.imatteryouth.org

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