

A. READING COMPREHENSION

Read the text about Mount Kilimanjaro and do the activities that follow.



Mount Kilimanjaro

One of the most amazing mountains in the world is in the country of Tanzania, Africa. It is Mount Kilimanjaro. This mountain is the highest in Tanzania, the highest in all of Africa, and the highest freestanding mountain in the world.

Freestanding means it is not part of a mountain range. When you measure from the base at sea level to the highest peak, Mt. Kilimanjaro is 5,895 meters high! It is one of the highest walkable mountains in the world, too. This means it is not too steep, so you don't need climbing equipment. You can walk up its slopes. But it is not an easy walk!

When you get up to a high altitude, you can get altitude sickness, which gives you headaches. And, the mountain is so high that it takes at least six days to get to the top!

This amazing mountain has glaciers and snow, which are unusual to see at the equator, where it is so hot! Over a million people live on its lower slopes. It is a very important and productive farming area because it has rich volcanic soil and a lot of rain. The mountain also has a lot of wildlife, such as buffalo, leopards, antelope, and monkeys. It has more than 1,300 kinds of flowering plants.

Unfortunately, Mt. Kilimanjaro is in danger. One problem is that the glacier is disappearing. In 1880, there were about 20 square kilometers of ice. Since 1912 about 80% of the glacier has disappeared, but

today there are less than 2 square kilometers. Glaciers are very important as a source of water for the mountain and for the land surrounding it. When the water supply is in danger, the lives of the people are threatened and so are the farms, the animals, and the plants. There are also problems with deforestation. This means that trees are cut down. Many valuable

kinds of trees grow there, and people cut down trees without a good plan for planting more.

What can be done to save Mt. Kilimanjaro? Some conservation groups are trying to educate people about how to take care of the land. Conservation groups also organize tree planting. One group planted over one million trees in just a few years! If you want to help save a mountain, you can do your part. Educate yourself and other people about the importance of mountains!

Think

What causes the farms, animals, and plants to be threatened?

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- 1) Fill in the chart with 2 amazing features of the mountain and 2 problems it is facing.



Amazing features	Problems
<ul style="list-style-type: none">••	<ul style="list-style-type: none">••



- 2) Answer True or False.

- a. Tanzania is a city in Africa.
- b. Mount Kilimanjaro is the highest mountain in the world.
- c. It's easy to get to the top of the mountain.
- d. Lots of people live and work there because it's hot.
- e. Wildlife is abundant in the area.
- f. More than 80% of the glacier has disappeared.
- g. Glaciers cause deforestation.
- h. Education is essential to save the land on Mount Kilimanjaro.
- i. One way to help is to plant trees.
- j. Conservation groups haven't done anything in the area yet.

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3) Look at the underlined words in the text and write them in the blanks next to the appropriate definition.

- Illness or disease
- Rising or falling quickly, not gradually
- To warn that you may hurt, kill or punish someone if he/she doesn't do what you want
- A line of mountains



4) Circle the correct option.

- a. Why are people, farms, animals and plants threatened on Mount Kilimanjaro?
- Because the water supply is in danger.
 - Because trees are cut down without a good plan.
 - Because buffalo, leopards and monkeys live in the area.
- b. Why is it that you don't need climbing equipment to climb the mountain?
- Because it is not very high.
 - Because it is not very steep.
 - Because it is very hot and you wouldn't bear it.
- c. The area is very productive because ...
- it is near the equator.
 - it has volcanic soil.
 - antelope and leopards.
- d. Conservation groups can save Mount Kilimanjaro by ...
- teaching people to take care of the land.
 - cutting down trees and planning for more trees.
 - bringing more wildlife there.



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5) What do these numbers refer to?

- 6
- 1,800
- 20

ABOUT YOU

Would you like to join a conservation group and help Mount Kilimanjaro?

Why? Why not?



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