

Name: _____

Reading Comprehension – Unit 2 – Wider World 4



READING

Read the passage about ways to protect the environment. Decide if the sentences are True (A) or False (B). If there is not enough information to decide, choose Doesn't say (C).

One idea, floating cities, is something that many people hope will solve the problem of overcrowding in our cities. This has been tried in Dubai, but it seems that the man-made islands have damaged the ecosystem. A project in China has been a little more successful by producing pollution-free islands, but they are far too expensive to copy around the world.

Another idea to save the planet was to use biofuels instead of traditional fuels. They're made from natural oils from plants such as oil palm or soybean and are therefore a renewable form of energy.

However they have severely damaged the environment by causing deforestation in some places and creating a global food crisis as farmers use the land for producing biofuel and not food. In addition biofuel production also requires a lot of water, which may mean that local people lose their water supply.

There have been many ideas for ways to protect the environment, but not all of them have proved to be successful and some have even damaged the environment in ways that the creators had not considered.

However, for every disaster story there is also a success story. When ships carrying large amounts of oil have accidents, the oil can seriously damage the environment and wildlife. One success story is the discovery that mushrooms can be used to remove all the bad chemicals from the ground.

Another good story is about plastic bags, which we used to get for free whenever we bought something in a shop. In the UK, for example, since they started charging 5p for every plastic bag, the use of bags has been reduced by 85%, which is amazing. It's such a simple idea but if every country does this, then our land and oceans could be much cleaner. Did you know that 8 million tonnes of plastic, much of which is plastic bags, goes into the world's oceans every year and is eaten by many sea animals?

Despite the failures, it's still important to come up with new ideas that will protect the environment, but we should look at the consequences more closely before putting them into practice.

1 Floating cities have solved the problem of overcrowding cities.

A True B False C Doesn't say

2 The Chinese floating city has produced a lot of pollution.

A True B False C Doesn't say

3 Biofuel is a kind of renewable energy.

A True B False C Doesn't say

4 In parts of the world, biofuel production has replaced food production.

A True B False C Doesn't say

5 Special mushrooms are used to clean the environment.

A True B False C Doesn't say

6 In the UK people are using fewer plastic bags.

A True B False C Doesn't say

7 Plastic bags are not often found in the sea.

A True B False C Doesn't say