Reading

Review test A: Units 5–6

For today's young people, the environment is an important issue. We asked five teenagers what concerns them about the environment. These were their answers.

Carlos

I've been collecting signatures this week for a petition to try to save the rainforest in Brazil. For decades, people have been cutting down trees there, often to make space for beef farming. The reason that this is so important is that the trees in the rainforest use carbon dioxide and help with the issues of carbon dioxide and climate change. Trees also release water vapor, and this produces clouds that make rain. Deforestation might explain why we've been seeing so little rain recently. I'm not sure the petition will help, but I have to do something.

Gemma

Most people believe that greenhouse gases in the air, like carbon dioxide, have been causing global warming. One way to reduce the amount of carbon dioxide in the air is by thinking about the way that we travel. If people travel by bus or by train, those vehicles will produce far less carbon dioxide than a lot of cars! We also need to think about the food we eat. The 1.5 billion cows in the world produce a lot of methane–a gas that is 23 times worse for global warming than CO_2. So, should we eat beef?

Hayley

Lots of people have started using alternative energy in recent years instead of gas or coal. In the area where I live, they've been putting up wind turbines, and some people have had solar panels on their roofs for a few years. Some electricity companies have also been providing energy from green sources. I know I'm too young to choose the energy for my home, but I've been trying to persuade my parents to try solar energy. It's much better for the environment, and it prevents air pollution and global warming.

Sean

People have been recycling things like glass, paper, and plastic for years now. Although that's a good thing for the environment, I think there's a lot more that we can do. A lot of plastic still enters the world's oceans and is eaten by fish and sea birds. We have to stop making this stuff. But it isn't just plastics. Every time we take metals out of the ground, we produce waste that destroys wildlife and contaminates rivers. People ought to think about how much they buy, and try to reuse things. We shouldn't just throw things away because we're bored with them!

Thomas

I think we should all do something to help endangered species in the world. There are some animals that are in real danger of extinction if we don't act soon. For example, tigers and rhinos have been disappearing quickly in certain parts of Africa and Asia. People kill them for sport, even though it's illegal in a lot of countries. Many animals can't find food, too, because we are building farms and cities on their land. I don't want to explain to my children, "There used to be an animal called an elephant." We'd better act globally to protect them before it's too late.

Match opinions 1–10 to the five people in the text. Write the names.

1 We should reduce the amount of waste we produce. _____
2 More people should use public transport. _____
3 Deforestation is a serious global problem. _____
4 I'm very interested in wildlife conservation. _____
5 We don't have to use fossil fuels. _____
6 We should protect nature for future generations. _____
7 Human activity is probably preventing rain. _____
8 We need to change the food that we eat. _____
9 Industries are contaminating water. _____
10 Young people can't make some decisions. _____

LIVEWORKSHEETS