



SKILLS

READING



VIII. Read and complete each numbered blank in the passage with the correct answer A, B, C, or D.

Coral reef facts

When you look at a coral reef, you might think that you are seeing a group of colourful rocks. But corals are actually (1) _____ creatures. Coral reefs mostly grow in shallow, clean ocean waters on either side of the Equator, because they need sunlight and warm temperatures to survive. The Great Barrier Reef is the (2) _____ reef system on Earth. You can even see it from space!

Lots of sea creatures call coral reefs their (3) _____ such as giant clams, sea turtles, and cuttlefish. The reefs provide them with everything they need, including food and shelter. Plants also live on reefs. For example, algae live inside soft coral, using sunlight to provide food and help the coral grow. (4) _____, coral reefs are endangered. The biggest threats to them are pollution from oil spills, damage from ships and boats, and climate change, (5) _____ makes the water warmer and more acidic. Many people are working hard to clean up the pollution on land and in the sea to save coral reefs.

(Adapted from: <https://www.natgeokids.com>)

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|---------------|-------------|------------------|-------------|
| 1. A. live | B. life | C. living | D. lively |
| 2. A. largest | B. smallest | C. narrowest | D. earliest |
| 3. A. house | B. home | C. accommodation | D. shelter |
| 4. A. But | B. Although | C. Moreover | D. However |
| 5. A. what | B. who | C. where | D. which |

IX. Read the passage and complete each sentence with no more than TWO words and/ or a number taken from the passage.

The Dead Sea

Located in the Syrian-African Rift Valley between Jordan and Israel, the Dead Sea is the lowest point on Earth. Because of its location and the fact that it has no outlets, the Dead Sea is also one of the saltiest bodies of water on the planet. The salt concentration here is around 34%. This high concentration gives the Dead Sea mud rich minerals, which is good to treat some skin problems, but at the same time, prevents all forms of life except bacteria in the lake.



The Dead Sea's fascinating characteristics, despite the dangers, make it an amazing place to visit. However, the lake has been shrinking fast. Today, Jordan's need for water has caused the Jordan River which feeds the Sea to be diverted for irrigation. This diversion affected the Sea so dramatically that the water level fell 22 metres between 1970 and 2006. As the water level continues to fall, both Israel and Jordan are trying to find ways to save this natural wonder. One such project plans to desalinate and add large quantities of brine to the lake. This is not simple, as adding any chemical substances to the lake would have unknown consequences.

1. The Dead Sea is located in a lower position than any other places _____.
2. _____ of the Dead Sea water is salt.
3. Only _____ can live in the Dead Sea.
4. The water level of the Dead Sea keeps decreasing because of the _____ of the Jordan River.
5. In their joint project, Jordan and Israel try to remove salt from the lake water and add much _____ to the lake.

X. Read the passage and choose the correct answer A, B, C, or D.

The Gobi Desert

The Gobi Desert is located in both Northern China and Southern Mongolia, covering a total area of 1.29 million km². The name "Gobi" in Mongolian means "a waterless place". The annual rainfall is about 18 cm. Gobi has rapid temperature changes, both seasonally and daily. Summer months bring temperatures of up to 50°C whilst in the winter months, temperatures can drop to below -40°C. This is also where some of the world's first fossilised dinosaur eggs were found.

Tourists who want to explore the Gobi Desert should travel in Jeep cars with local drivers or by camel. They can admire a dramatic rocky landscape, high sand dunes, and see some of the unique Gobi Desert animals such as the Jerboa, Snow Leopard, and Siberian Ibex. They should also visit ancient ruins and oasis communities, as well as meet the nomadic people whose ways of life remain untouched by Western influence.

However, the Gobi Desert is not without any threat. It is still growing at an alarming rate, causing the loss of valuable grassland. The Chinese government is currently planting the Green Wall of China, which is a line of forest, with the hope to slow down the expansion of the desert.

1. The Gobi Desert weather is _____.
A. hot B. extreme C. mild D. foggy

2. Which of the following is INCORRECT about the Gobi Desert?
 - A. People discovered fossils of dinosaur eggs there.
 - B. Tourists should drive their Jeep cars across the Desert.
 - C. The landscape is rocky, with high sand dunes.
 - D. Camels are a good means of transportation there.
3. Why does the writer mention Siberian Ibex in paragraph 2?
 - A. To point out that Siberian Ibex is going to extinct soon
 - B. To show that people in the oasis communities are very rich
 - C. To explain the need to protect local animals in the Gobi Desert
 - D. To give an example of animals which are unique to the Gobi Desert
4. According to the passage, who should visitors meet when they visit the Gobi Desert?
 - A. Nomadic people
 - B. Western businessmen
 - C. Ancient families
 - D. Other visitors
5. A problem with the Gobi Desert is _____.
 - A. the untouched local lifestyle
 - B. the growing loss of animals
 - C. its alarming expansion
 - D. the slow growth of new forests



SPEAKING

XI. Choose the best option A, B, C, or D to indicate the most suitable response to complete each of the following exchanges.

1. Peter: May I borrow your book about natural wonders of the world?
 Mai: _____
 - A. Yes, I like reading about cultures.
 - B. Sure. I'll find it for you.
 - C. What a pity, I don't know.
 - D. Sorry, I'm not.
2. Lucy: Mum, can I go to the shopping mall with Hoa this afternoon?
 Mum: _____
 - A. No. You should go with Hoa.
 - B. The shopping mall is near here.
 - C. Yes, I watched a good documentary.
 - D. Dear, you're visiting the dentist this afternoon.



3. George: May I see the book on the top shelf?
 Shop assistant: _____
 A. Go to the top floor. B. No, the book is not there.
 C. Of course. Here you are. D. Do you see my book anywhere?
4. Ben: _____
 Lana: He wondered if you could help him revise maths lessons.
 A. What did Minh ask?
 B. Who is Minh talking to?
 C. How did Minh go to his maths class?
 D. Is Minh revising for maths lessons?
5. Kien: _____
 Dad: Yes, you can. But you must come home before 9 p.m.
 A. When will you come home?
 B. Mum asked if you could pick her up this afternoon.
 C. Can I go to Minh's birthday party?
 D. Dad, how about eating out this evening?



LISTENING

XII. Listen and choose the correct answer A, B, C, or D. 

- Angel Falls is _____ times higher than the Eiffel Tower.
 A. two B. three C. four D. five
- When did UNESCO name Canaima National Park a World Heritage Site?
 A. 1990 B. 1992 C. 1994 D. 1996
- A common animal in Canaima National Park is _____.
 A. otters B. jaguars C. sloth D. monkeys
- How do tourists get to Canaima National Park?
 A. by air B. by boat C. by car D. by hiking
- Which of the following is TRUE about Angel Falls?
 A. Visitors should visit the Falls on cloudy days.
 B. Visitors must wait for 24 hours to see the Falls.
 C. Visitors may not see the Falls on some days.
 D. Visitors don't have to buy an entrance ticket to visit the Falls.



WRITING

XIII. Rewrite the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first one.

1. "Is the Sahara Desert hot all year round?" Laura asked me.
→ Laura wondered _____.
2. "Will the project help protect the biodiversity of the island?" Minh wondered.
→ Minh wondered _____.
3. "Are Ron and his family travelling to Ha Long Bay?" Peter asked me.
→ Peter wanted _____.
4. Minh asked the tour guide if there was any local restaurant nearby.
→ " _____" Minh asked the tour guide.
5. Kate wanted to know if I would participate in the Natural Wonders competition.
→ " _____" Kate asked me.

XIV. Circle the correct answer A, B, C, or D which is closest in meaning to the original one.

1. Trang An Landscape Complex received the title UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2014.
 - A. UNESCO named Trang An Landscape Complex a World Heritage Site in 2014.
 - B. Trang An Landscape Complex was a World Heritage Site before 2014.
 - C. In 2014, UNESCO refused to recognise Trang An Landscape Complex a Heritage Site.
 - D. It was not until 2014 that Trang An named a World Heritage Site.
2. Trang An has two types of ecosystems, the limestone mountain one and the aquatic one.
 - A. The two types of ecosystems create the limestone mountain and the aquatic Trang An.
 - B. The limestone mountain ecosystem is more diverse than the water one in Trang An.
 - C. Trang An has many ecosystems besides the limestone mountain and the aquatic ones.
 - D. There are a limestone mountain ecosystem and a water ecosystem in Trang An.

3. By exploring the caves in Trang An, scientists discovered human activities more than 30,000 years ago.
 - A. Scientists occupied the caves in Trang An to explore humans of more than 30,000 years ago.
 - B. Scientists' exploration of the caves reveals that there were human activities in Trang An more than 30,000 years ago.
 - C. By exploring the caves, humans lived in Trang An more than 30,000 years ago.
 - D. More than 30,000 years ago, ancient scientists discovered some caves in Trang An where humans lived.
4. The best time to visit Trang An is from February to April when the weather is nice and rice fields are green.
 - A. Visiting Trang An in February is the best because the weather is very nice.
 - B. From February to April, many people visit Trang An to take photos of green rice fields.
 - C. Visitors should visit Trang An between February and April to enjoy nice weather and green rice fields.
 - D. Those who visit Trang An between February and April can enjoy nice weather and rice fields ready for harvest.
5. If you are passionate about Vietnamese culture and history, you cannot miss Hoa Lu Ancient Capital.
 - A. A passionate person on Vietnamese culture and history will not go to Hoa Lu Ancient Capital.
 - B. Hoa Lu Ancient Capital has a very long history.
 - C. Books about Vietnamese culture and history can be found in Hoa Lu Ancient Capital.
 - D. Hoa Lu Ancient Capital is a must-go for those hoping to learn about Vietnamese culture and history.

