

## TA9. U7. Natural wonders of the world – Reading 4

### Text 1: Exploring the Amazon Rainforest

The Amazon Rainforest, often called the "lungs of the Earth," is one of the most important natural wonders in the world. Spanning over nine countries, it is home to incredible biodiversity, including millions of species of flora and fauna. The Amazon plays a critical role in regulating the planet's climate and is a major source of oxygen.

Visitors to the Amazon have a variety of ways to explore its vast landscapes, such as guided tours, river cruises, and wildlife observation. Popular activities include spotting pink river dolphins, jaguars, and macaws. However, gaining access to some remote areas requires special permits to protect the fragile ecosystem and prevent over-tourism.

Despite its importance, the Amazon faces significant challenges. Deforestation, illegal logging, and climate change continue to threaten this ecosystem. Conservation efforts by governments and environmental organizations are ongoing but face obstacles due to economic and political pressures.

The Amazon remains a paradise for eco-tourists and researchers alike. Its preservation is vital not only for local communities but also for the global ecosystem. The rainforest serves as a powerful reminder of nature's grandeur and humanity's responsibility to protect it.

1. What nickname is often given to the Amazon Rainforest?
  - A. The Earth's Heart
  - B. The Lungs of the Earth
  - C. The Planet's Jewel
  - D. The World's Paradise
2. Which activity is popular among visitors to the Amazon?
  - A. Coral watching
  - B. Snow trekking
  - C. Wildlife observation
  - D. Glacier hiking
3. Why are special permits required in some parts of the Amazon?
  - A. To allow economic activities
  - B. To regulate river cruises
  - C. To prevent ecosystem damage
  - D. To promote local tourism

4. What role does the Amazon play globally?
  - A. It promotes tourism festivals
  - B. It regulates the planet's oxygen and climate
  - C. It serves as a coral ecosystem
  - D. It is a key agricultural resource
5. What is one of the biggest threats to the Amazon?
  - A. Over-tourism
  - B. Coral destruction
  - C. Illegal logging
  - D. Glacier melting
6. Who benefits from the preservation of the Amazon?
  - A. Local tourists
  - B. Governments and urban planners
  - C. Private companies
  - D. Global communities and researchers
7. What makes the Amazon a unique travel destination?
  - A. Its coral reefs
  - B. Its luxurious resorts
  - C. Its accessible location
  - D. Its incredible biodiversity
8. How do environmentalists contribute to the Amazon's conservation?
  - A. By organizing annual festivals
  - B. By promoting snowstorm activities
  - C. By raising awareness and supporting preservation efforts
  - D. By increasing urban development
9. What does the Amazon symbolize?
  - A. Economic opportunity
  - B. Nature's grandeur and humanity's responsibility
  - C. Global entertainment
  - D. Urban resilience
10. What is the main challenge for conservation efforts in the Amazon?
  - A. Insufficient tourist interest

- B. Economic and political pressures
- C. Lack of permits
- D. Competition with other rainforests

### **Text 2: The Great Barrier Reef: A Marine Wonder**

The Great Barrier Reef, located off the coast of Australia, is the largest coral reef system in the world. Known for its vibrant marine life and crystal-clear waters, it attracts millions of visitors each year. This ecosystem is home to over 1,500 species of fish, 400 types of coral, and numerous endangered species.

Tourists can explore the reef through scuba diving, snorkeling, and glass-bottom boat tours. These activities provide a glimpse into the reef's incredible biodiversity and stunning coral formations. However, the reef faces threats from climate change, pollution, and over-tourism, leading to the bleaching of its corals.

Conservation efforts are underway to protect this natural wonder. The Australian government has implemented strict regulations, including permits for certain areas, to minimize human impact. Eco-friendly tourism initiatives encourage visitors to adopt sustainable practices, such as avoiding damaging coral and supporting local businesses. The Great Barrier Reef is not only a natural wonder but also a vital resource for marine research and global sustainability. Its preservation ensures future generations can admire its beauty and learn about the importance of protecting marine ecosystems.

1. Where is the Great Barrier Reef located?
  - A. Off the coast of New Zealand
  - B. Off the coast of Australia
  - C. In the Pacific Northwest
  - D. Near the Amazon River
2. What makes the reef a unique ecosystem?
  - A. Its annual festivals
  - B. Its accessibility for all visitors
  - C. Its luxurious underwater hotels
  - D. Its vast coral formations and marine life
3. Which activity is most popular among reef visitors?
  - A. Skiing

- B. Snorkeling
- C. Glacier hiking
- D. Sailing

4. What is a major threat to the Great Barrier Reef?

- A. Deforestation
- B. Increased use of glass-bottom boats
- C. Overpopulation in nearby cities
- D. Coral bleaching caused by climate change

5. What action has the Australian government taken to protect the reef?

- A. Encouraged over-tourism
- B. Banned all tourist activities
- C. Introduced strict regulations and permits
- D. Promoted annual fishing contests

6. How can tourists contribute to the reef's preservation?

- A. By using glass-bottom boats exclusively
- B. By adopting eco-friendly practices
- C. By avoiding visits altogether
- D. By staying at luxury resorts

7. What is the Great Barrier Reef's significance beyond tourism?

- A. It is a resource for global sustainability and marine research
- B. It serves as an entertainment hub for travelers
- C. It is a symbol of urban development
- D. It supports annual biodiversity contests

8. What species are found in the reef's ecosystem?

- A. Snow leopards and jaguars
- B. Penguins and seals
- C. Fish, coral, and endangered marine animals
- D. Glaciers and polar bears

9. Why are eco-tourism initiatives important for the reef?

- A. They generate profit for luxury resorts
- B. They promote urbanization around the reef

C. They help protect the reef from human impact

D. They increase the reef's accessibility

10. What does the Great Barrier Reef symbolize?

A. Human development

B. Nature's resilience and marine diversity

C. The future of luxury tourism

D. Annual travel festivals