



Read the text and mark the statements

True (1), False (2), Not Stated (3)

- A. Taiga is situated only in the vast territories of Russia.
- B. The winters are very long in the Taiga.
- C. Life is very difficult in the Taiga.
- D. There are only evergreen trees in the taiga.
- E. The Taiga is a good place for trees to grow.
- F. There are more than 300 kinds of insects in the taiga.
- G. There isn't a lot of animal life in the Taiga.
- H. There are a lot of mosquitoes in the taiga in summer.
- I. Cutting down trees helps the Taiga survive.

### Extreme Places: The Taiga

The Taiga, which means 'forest' in Russian, is the world's largest biome. It consists of coniferous forests and covers a large part of Russia, Scandinavia, and North America. The Taiga has a subarctic climate with large differences in temperature between seasons. Winters are long and very cold with only snowfall, and temperatures can drop as low as  $-54^{\circ}\text{C}$ . Summers are very short but warm and humid; sometimes temperatures reach  $30^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

The trees of the Taiga have adapted to the low levels of sunlight and the extreme conditions. Most of them are evergreen trees which means they keep their leaves all year round. The leaves are also a very dark green colour so that they can absorb more sunlight for photosynthesis. The cone shape of the evergreens helps snow slide off of them so the branches don't break from the weight of the snow. The environment of the Taiga encourages healthy tree growth and some of the trees there are thousands of years old.

The Taiga also hosts a wide variety of wildlife. It is home to Russia's largest populations of brown bear, wolf, moose, reindeer, and red fox. It also has as many as 300 species of birds including the golden eagle and the great grey owl. The Taiga, however, is in danger because of global warming and an increase in deforestation over the past decades. Fortunately, governments are now taking measures to protect this precious natural habitat.



A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I