

Deforestation

WORKSHEET A

Deforestation used to be something that few people apart from environmentalists talked about, but in the last 20 years or so it has received increasing (1)_____ from governments and the media, and is now generally considered one of the world's most serious environmental problems.

There is (2)_____ about how much forest has been disappearing, but few people doubt there is much less forest now than there was, say, fifty years ago.

Deforestation leads to the extinction of many (3)_____ of forest animals and the erosion of soil after trees have been removed, but the (4)_____ of deforestation that we hear most about is its contribution to global warming. Trees naturally absorb carbon dioxide (CO₂) from the Earth's atmosphere, so (5)_____ trees means higher levels of CO₂, which contributes to the atmosphere becoming warmer. Many scientists estimate that about 20% of global warming is due to (6)_____.

Deforestation is taking place mostly in developing countries in tropical regions of South and Southeast Asia, Central and South (7)_____, and Africa. Perhaps the most well-known case is the (8)_____ size of the huge Amazon rainforest in northern Brazil.

Many people around the world say these developing countries should do more to (9)_____ their forests – although the developing countries could point out that most of the world's developed countries destroyed most of their own forests many centuries (10)_____.

In some cases deforestation is caused by poor people who want to use the wood for fuel or to clear a small amount of land in order to grow (11)_____ for their families. In many cases, however, it happens because there are large profits to be made – for example from selling the wood, or from growing crops (such as soybeans) or raising animals (such as cattle, for beef) on the land after the trees have gone.

Produce from (12)_____ land is often exported, so there is often a link between what people choose to buy in their local shops and what happens to forests in countries thousands of miles (13)_____.

Deforestation will be among the subjects discussed at the very important United Nations climate change summit taking (14)_____ in Copenhagen, Denmark, in December this year, when hopefully developed and developing countries will be able to come to an agreement about ways to (15)_____ down global warming.

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WORKSHEET B

Exercise 1

Fill in the gaps in the text on Worksheet A with the correct words from the table below. There are five extra words.

consequence	increasing	protect	less
slow	place	deforestation	deforested
food	attention	cut	species
decreasing	part	fewer	away
ago	disagreement	facts	America

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Exercise 2

The text from Worksheet A has been copied below, but now contains 20 mistakes – can you find and correct them?

Deforestation used to be something that few people apart from environmentalists talked about, but in the last 20 years and so it has received increasing attention from governments and the media, and is now generally considered one of the world's most serious environmental problems.

There is disagreement about how much forest has disappeared, but few people doubt there is much less forest now than there was, say, fifty years ago.

Deforestation leads to the extinction of many species of forest animals and the erosion of soil after trees have been removed, but the consequence of deforestation that we hear most about is its contribution to global warming. Trees naturally absorb carbon dioxide (CO₂) from the Earth's atmosphere, so fewer trees means higher levels of CO₂, which contributes to the atmosphere becoming warmer. Many scientists estimate that about 20% of global warming is due to deforestation.

Deforestation is taking place mostly in developing countries in tropical regions of South and Southeast Asia, Central and South America, and Africa. Perhaps the more well-known case is the decreasing size of the huge Amazon rainforest in northern Brazil.

Many people around the world say these developing countries should do more to protect their forests – although the developing countries could point that most of the world's developed countries destroyed most of their own forests many centuries ago. In some cases deforestation is caused by poor people who want to use the wood for fuel or to clear a small amount of land in order to grow food for their families. In many cases, however, it happens because there are large profits to be made – for example from selling the wood, or from growing crops (such as soybeans) or raising animals (such as cattle, for beef) on the land after the trees have gone. Produce from deforested land is often exported, so there is often a link between what people choose to buy in their local shops and what happens to forests in countries thousands of miles away.

Deforestation will be among the subjects discussed at the very important United Nations climate change summit taking place in Copenhagen, Denmark, in December this year, when hopefully developed and developing countries will be able to come to an agreement about ways to slow down global warming.

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WORKSHEET D

Deforestation used to be something that few people apart from **environmentalists** talked about, but in the last 20 years **or** so it has received increasing attention from governments and the **media**, and is now generally considered one of the world's most serious environmental problems.

There is disagreement about how much forest has **been** disappearing, but few people doubt there is much less forest now than there was, say, fifty years ago.

Deforestation leads to the **extinction** of many species of forest animals and the erosion of soil after trees have been removed, but the consequence of deforestation that we hear most about is **its** contribution to global warming. Trees naturally absorb carbon dioxide (CO₂) from the Earth's **atmosphere**, so fewer trees means higher levels of CO₂, which contributes to the atmosphere becoming warmer. Many scientists estimate that about 20% of global warming is **due** to deforestation.

Deforestation is taking place mostly in developing countries in tropical regions of South and Southeast Asia, Central and South America, and Africa. Perhaps the **most** well-known case is the decreasing size of the huge Amazon rainforest in northern Brazil.

Many people around the world say **these** developing countries should do more to protect their forests – although the developing countries could point **out** that most of the world's developed countries **destroyed** most of their own forests many centuries ago.

In some cases deforestation is **caused** by poor people who want to use the wood for fuel or to clear a small amount of land in **order** to grow food for their families. In many cases, however, it happens because there are large profits to be **made** – for example from selling the wood, or from growing crops (such as soybeans) or **raising** animals (such as cattle, for beef) on the land after the trees have gone. Produce from deforested land is often exported, so there is often a **link** between what people choose to buy in their local shops and what happens **to** forests in countries thousands of miles away.

Deforestation will be among the subjects **discussed** at the very important United Nations climate change **summit** taking place in Copenhagen, Denmark, in December this year, when hopefully developed and developing countries will be able to come to an agreement about ways to slow down global warming.