



# EARTH DAY

## WHAT'S BETTER - AND WHAT'S WORSE?

Cambridge Preliminary (B1)  
Worksheet



### Warm-Up Game: TRUE or FALSE?



Work with a partner.

Decide if these environmental facts are **TRUE** or **FALSE**

Circle your answers.

<p>1. The first Earth Day was celebrated in <b>1970</b>. TRUE / FALSE</p>	
<p>2. About <b>190 countries</b> celebrate Earth Day on April 23rd. TRUE / FALSE</p>	
<p>3. Plastic bottles can take <b>at least 20 years</b> to break down. TRUE / FALSE</p>	
<p>4. Some rivers in the past were so polluted they <b>caught fire</b>. TRUE / FALSE</p>	
<p>5. The Earth is getting <b>slightly cooler</b> each decade. TRUE / FALSE</p>	
<p>6. <b>Giant pandas</b> are no longer classified as <b>endangered</b>. TRUE / FALSE</p>	
<p>7. The production of one cotton T-shirt requires <b>270 liters of water</b></p>	

# Vocabulary Builder

pollution • protect • wildlife • forests • climate • species • environment • waste

Complete the sentences with the correct word.

1. There are many different \_\_\_\_\_ of plants and animals.
2. People celebrate Earth Day to raise awareness about the \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Governments try to \_\_\_\_\_ endangered animals.
4. Factories and cars can cause air \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Many tropical \_\_\_\_\_ are being cut down every year.
6. Recycling helps reduce \_\_\_\_\_.
7. Scientists study how the \_\_\_\_\_ is changing.
8. National parks help protect \_\_\_\_\_.



# Vocabulary Speaking Activity

Work with a partner.

Ask and answer the questions using the **vocabulary words**.

1. Is there **pollution** in your town/city?
2. Why is it important to **protect wildlife**?
3. What could schools do to reduce **waste**?
4. What animals are important **species** in your country?
5. What changes in the **climate** worry scientists today?

Try to speak for **30–40 seconds** for each answer



# Pre-Reading Discussion

Work with a partner. Below are some environmental issues. What environmental issues are being shown? Do you think these problems are better or worse than 50 years ago?



Now rank them (1 = MOST serious, 6 = LEAST serious)

Problem	Rank	
Air pollution		
Climate change		
Plastic waste		
Deforestation		
Endangered animals		
Water pollution		

## Reading – PET Part 4

### Earth Day: What's Better — and What's Still a Problem?

Read the article.

**Five sentences have been removed from the text.**

Choose from sentences **A–F** to complete the article. There is **one extra sentence**



### Earth Day: What's Better — and What's Still a Problem?

Earth Day began in 1970, when millions of people joined demonstrations to demand cleaner air, safer water and stronger environmental protection. At the time, pollution was a serious problem in many cities, and rivers were often full of industrial waste. Since then, Earth Day has become a global event celebrated in more than 190 countries, with schools, communities and governments organising activities to protect the planet.

Since the first Earth Day, some environmental problems have improved while others have become worse. One important improvement is air quality. In many countries, governments introduced laws to limit pollution from factories, power stations and cars. **(1)** \_\_\_\_\_ These rules forced companies to use cleaner technology and reduce harmful emissions. Scientists say these environmental laws have saved millions of lives.

Rivers and lakes have also improved in some places. In the past, companies sometimes dumped chemicals directly into the water, which destroyed ecosystems. **(2)** \_\_\_\_\_ Today, many cities treat

wastewater before releasing it into rivers, which helps keep water cleaner and safer.

Wildlife protection has also had some success. Certain animals that were once close to extinction have slowly returned. Governments created national parks, banned some harmful chemicals and protected important habitats. **(3)** \_\_\_\_\_

However, not everything has improved. Climate change has become one of the biggest environmental challenges of the 21st century. Global temperatures have continued to rise, and scientists say human activities are the main cause. **(4)** \_\_\_\_\_ This warming can lead to stronger storms, melting ice in polar regions and rising sea levels. Another growing concern is the loss of biodiversity. Every year, large areas of forest are destroyed to create farmland, roads and cities. When forests disappear, animals lose their natural homes. **(5)** \_\_\_\_\_

Even so, environmental awareness has grown enormously since the first Earth Day. Around the world, young people are becoming more active in protecting the planet and encouraging governments to take action.

## Sentences

A For example, the bald eagle in the United States has recovered after years of protection.

B This often means they cannot survive

C Some rivers became so polluted that fish disappeared completely.

D As a result, air in many large cities is healthier than it was fifty years ago, even though populations have grown

E Our cars, factories and power plants produce greenhouse gases, which lead to this increase.

F Some people believe the situation is already impossible to fix.

## Eco Detective Challenge

You are **Eco Detectives**. What has gotten better in the last 50 years? What has gotten worse?

Find examples in the article.

Environmental Improvements	Environmental Problems
1.	1.
2.	2.
3.	3.

# Preliminary Speaking (Part 4)

Work with a partner. Discuss the questions.

1. Which environmental problem worries you the most? Why?
2. What can students do to help protect the environment?
3. Do you celebrate Earth Day at school? What activities could schools organise?

## EARTH DAY 2070

Extra challenge: **Imagine Earth Day in 2070.**

What will be better? What might be worse?



## Exit Ticket

Complete the sentences.

One environmental problem I learned about today:

One environmental improvement that surprised me:

One action I can take this week to help the planet:

# Answer Key

## True / False

1. True
2. True
3. False (It can take hundreds of years)
4. True
5. False (The Earth is getting slightly hotter each decade)
6. True
7. False (The production of one cotton T-shirt requires 2,700 liters of water)

## Vocabulary

- 1 species
- 2 environment
- 3 protect
- 4 pollution
- 5 forests
- 6 waste
- 7 climate
- 8 wildlife

## Reading Part 4

Gap	Answer	Why it fits
1	<b>D</b>	It shows the <b>result</b> of environmental laws → cleaner air in cities
2	<b>C</b>	It describes the <b>consequence</b> of pollution → fish disappeared
3	<b>A</b>	It gives a <b>specific example</b> of an animal that recovered
4	<b>E</b>	It explains the <b>cause</b> of rising temperatures → greenhouse gases
5	<b>B</b>	It shows the <b>result</b> of losing habitats → animals cannot survive

Extra sentence: F

Eco Detective (possible answers)

Improvements:

- cleaner air
- cleaner rivers
- protected wildlife / national parks

Problems:

- climate change
- rising temperatures
- deforestation
- biodiversity loss