

Vocabulary: the environment 词汇: 环境

We are all aware of the threats our planet is facing. Experts agree that it's mainly us humans who are responsible for the **destruction** of the environment. Activities such as **mass farming** and burning **fossil fuels** are **taking their toll on** our climate – and we're suffering too through **natural disasters** such as flooding and more frequent **droughts**.

One of the most **destructive** activities we are carrying out is cutting down forests - **deforestation**. This is done for many reasons, such as providing wood for fuel, making land available for housing or for creating space for more cattle to graze on. This has been most noticeable in Brazil, which is home to the world's largest **rainforest**. Deforestation there has hit its highest rate in a decade, according to official data. Over the course of a year, an area about five times the size of London has been destroyed.

The amount of deforestation in the Amazon and in other **tropical** regions has actually seen a decline but the figures are still large. Global Forest Watch say that in 2018, an area equivalent to 30 football fields were cut down every minute. Frances Seymour from the World Resources Institute says that "If you look back over the last 18 years, it is clear that the overall trend is still upwards. We are nowhere near winning this battle."

What's special about places like the Amazon is that they are **primary forests** which exist in their **original condition** with some **species** of trees dating back thousands of years. This **habitat** is **home to** unique and rare animals and is critical for **sustaining biodiversity**. The BBC's environment correspondent, Matt McGrath, says "These old forests really matter as stores of carbon dioxide, which is why the loss of 3.6 million hectares in 2018 is concerning."

Brazil has taken some steps to try and decrease deforestation by introducing government policies including fines for breaking land use regulations and clamping down on illegal **logging**. And International campaigns to stop the trade of soy and beef farmed on deforested parts of the Amazon have also had a significant impact. But meanwhile other parts of the world, such as Ghana and the Democratic Republic of Congo, are seeing

dramatic increases. So it seems only political will and human **conscience** will tackle this problem and save planet Earth.

词汇表

destruction	破坏
mass farming	大规模农耕活动
fossil fuel	化石燃料
take its toll on something	对...造成破坏
natural disaster	自然灾害
drought	干旱
destructive	破坏性的
deforestation	大面积砍伐森林
rainforest	热带雨林
tropical	热带的
primary forest	原始森林
original condition	初始、原始状态
species	(动植物的) 物种
habitat	(动植物的) 栖息地
home to	为...的所在地
sustain	维持
biodiversity	生物多样性
logging	伐木
conscience	良知、良心

测验与练习

1. 阅读课文并回答问题。

1. What kinds of natural disaster is human activity contributing to?
2. What has been destroyed that has an area five times the size of London?
3. How might stopping soy and beef farming prevent deforestation?
4. True or false? *One thousand-year-old trees can be found in primary forests.*
5. Which expression in the article means 'taking strong action to stop people doing something bad or illegal'?

2. 请在不参考课文的情况下完成下列练习。选择一个意思合适的单词填入句子的空格处。

1. All those late nights studying and drinking coffee have _____ on Neil – he looks exhausted!

taken tolls	taken their toll	taken his toll	take a toll
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2. Our flight was cancelled because a volcano erupted, but our insurance company won't pay out because it's a _____.

trend	destruction	natural disaster	tropical
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3. I'll leave it to your _____ to make the right decision – you know what's best for the company.

conscience	conscious	convenience	conchience
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4. My safari holiday was amazing! It was great to see wild animals in their natural _____.

rainforest	habitat	tropical	biodiversity
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5. Because of this summer's _____, a number of crops have died. There could be a food shortage.

destruction	deforestation	logging	drought
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答案

1. 阅读课文并回答问题。

1. What kinds of natural disaster is human activity contributing to?

Floods and droughts.

2. What has been destroyed that has an area five times the size of London?

Over the course of a year, an area of the Amazon rainforest, about five times the size of London, has been destroyed.

3. How might stopping soy and beef farming prevent deforestation?

It's likely, less forest will be cut down to create space for cattle and growing soy crops.

4. True or false? *One thousand-year-old trees can be found in primary forests.*

True. Places like the Amazon are primary forests which exist in their original condition with some species of trees dating back thousands of years.

5. Which expression in the article means 'taking strong action to stop people doing something bad or illegal'?

Clamping down. 'Brazil has taken some steps to try and decrease deforestation by introducing government policies including fines for breaking land use regulations and clamping down on illegal logging.'

2. 请在不参考课文的情况下完成下列练习。选择一个意思合适的单词填入句子的空格处。

1. All those late nights studying and drinking coffee have **taken their toll** on Neil – he looks exhausted!

2. Our flight was cancelled because a volcano erupted, but our insurance company won't pay out because it's a **natural disaster**.

3. I'll leave it to your **conscience** to make the right decision – you know what's best for the company.

4. My safari holiday was amazing! It was great to see wild animals in their natural **habitat**.

5. Because of this summer's **drought**, a number of crops have died. There could be a food shortage.