



**ST NICHOLAS COLLEGE**  
**HALF YEARLY PRIMARY EXAMINATIONS**  
**February 2014**

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**YEAR 6**

**ENGLISH**

**TIME: 50 min**

**(Reading Comprehension)**

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Class: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Total: 30 marks**

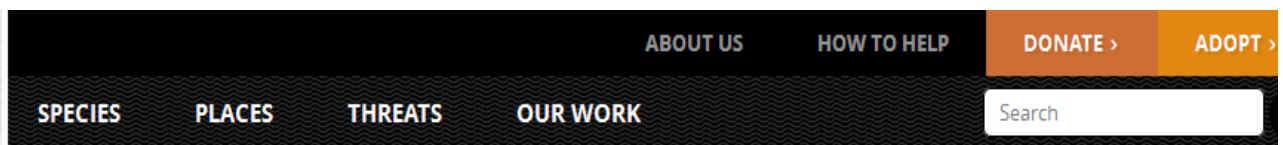


## Reading Comprehension 1

(6 marks)

Read the following and answer the questions.

The WWF is the world's leading conservation organisation. This screenshot has been taken from its website. Read the text and answer the questions about it.



### Thank a Ranger

They serve under various titles- rangers, forest guards, eco guard and field enforcement officers- but these men and women on the frontlines of conservation are perhaps the most important protectors of the world's natural and cultural treasures.

Rangers work tirelessly to protect some of the world's most endangered species like tigers, elephants and rhinos, which are also among the most widely targeted wildlife by poachers for the illegal wildlife trade.

Visitors of this website are encouraged to thank rangers protecting tigers, elephants or rhinos.



Tick ( ✓ ) the correct answer.

(2 marks)

1. (i) This part of the website is encouraging internet users to:

a)	adopt a tiger.	
b)	become a ranger.	
c)	thank a ranger.	

(ii) Rangers are:

a)	hunters who kill animals.	
b)	protectors of wildlife.	
c)	people who save humans.	

2. Read the sentences. Write T if the sentence is True, F if it is False and N if there is no information given in the passage. (2 marks)

a)	There is only one type of ranger.	
b)	Rangers are very lazy people.	
c)	Rangers spend a lot of time reading about animals.	
d)	Wildlife is generally attacked by poachers.	

3. **Look carefully at the screenshot and answer.** (2 marks)

(i) On which link do you need to click if you want information about the organisation? \_\_\_\_\_

(ii) From the text, mention two types of endangered species.

\_\_\_\_\_

Read the following passage and then answer the questions below.

### DEFORESTATION

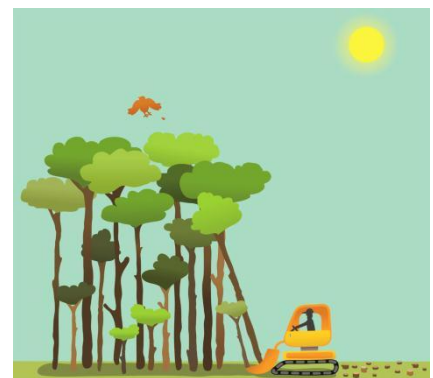
Deforestation is the clearing of forests usually for timber or to clear the land for farming and agriculture. Most of Western Europe and the Mediterranean lands lost their natural forests centuries ago. In China wood has been scarce for thousands of years due to deforestation. (par.1)



Today, huge areas of forest, most of it tropical, are being cleared. It is estimated that 12 million hectares of forest

land are being destroyed every year. In South America, the Amazon rainforest, the world's largest, is particularly under threat. Here much of the felling of trees is done by multinational companies, which either sell the timber for export or use the cleared land for ranching. (par.2)

Unfortunately, when forests are destroyed, many wild animals and sometimes even some primitive people, end up homeless. This is because deforestation destroys their natural **habitat**. Seventy per cent of land animals live in the forests and many of these cannot survive if deforestation destroys their home. They eventually die out and become extinct. (par.3)



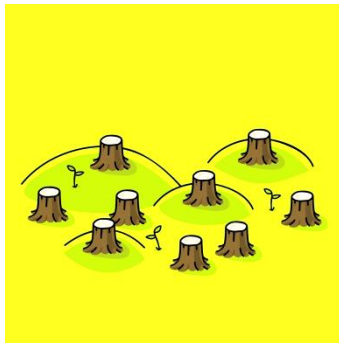
Perhaps the most dramatic impact of deforestation is global warming. This is likely to occur if there are not enough trees on Earth to perform their special role. The world's trees consume harmful gases, like carbon dioxide, and they give out oxygen which is so important for animals and humans to breathe. While producing fresh air, trees keep the atmosphere cool. Fewer forests mean larger amounts of harmful gases entering the

Earth's atmosphere which then becomes warmer. A large rise in temperature could be terrible for us and many other living things on Earth. (par.4)



Deforestation also brings about **soil erosion**. Forest soil is normally moist but without protection from the trees it is exposed to wind and weather. Once the trees are cut down or burned, the soil remains fertile only for a few years, before it is blown or washed away and the land becomes barren. Without trees acting as natural shields, many forest lands can quickly turn into deserts. (par.5)

It is clear that the problem of deforestation must be urgently dealt with. The quickest solution would be to simply stop cutting down trees but this is



easier said than done. Deforestation can, however, be controlled by stopping the clear-cutting of trees and allowing a smaller amount to be cut down. Moreover, we can make up for damage already done by planting new trees to replace those destroyed. In China, planting of trees has become compulsory. All citizens aged eleven and over, are now obliged to plant three trees every year. (par.6)

Although new tree plantations are growing each year, they have only replaced a tiny fraction of the world's forest land! (par.7)

**Complete these sentences.**

1. Deforestation is the clearing of \_\_\_\_\_ . (1 mark)
2. In China, \_\_\_\_\_ has been scarce for thousands of years. (1 mark)

**Answer these questions.**

3. Why are forests being cleared? Give two reasons. (2 marks)

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4. From paragraph 2, find the words that have a similar meaning to:

(i) calculated \_\_\_\_\_

(ii) wood \_\_\_\_\_

(2 marks)

5. Read the following sentences. Write T if the sentence is True, F if it is False and N if there is no information given in the passage. (7 marks)

a)	Only 30 % of the Earth's land animals and plants live in forests.	
b)	Harmful gases in the air bring about global warming.	
c)	In Antartica some of the ice has already melted.	
d)	Global warming means a rise in temperature in summer.	
e)	The polar bear is the animal most at risk.	
f)	Soil erosion increases the risk of having barren land or deserts.	
g)	In China people are obliged to plant three trees each year.	

6. Underline the best answer to complete the sentence. (3 marks)

- (a) Cutting down trees (increases, reduces, prevents) the risk of global warming.
- (b) Animals and humans need oxygen to (drink, eat, breathe).
- (c) Soil erosion occurs when soil is ( blown or washed away, fertilised and cultivated, watered and protected) by natural weather elements.

7. Answer these questions:

(a) What happened to the Mediterranean lands a long time ago? (2 marks)

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(b) How much forest land is approximately being destroyed each year? (1 mark)

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(c) Explain the meaning of the word **habitat** in paragraph 3. (1 mark)

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(d) Why is deforestation dangerous? Give two reasons. (2 marks)

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(e) Write a slogan (a message) for the National Geographic magazine about the problem of deforestation. (Do not write more than 6 words)

(2 marks)

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**END OF PAPER**