

**Discuss:**

- ▶ What kind(s) of natural disasters are common where you live? How destructive are they?
- ▶ Many people are fascinated by dinosaurs. Why do you think this is so?
- ▶ Do you know of any plants or animals that are on the endangered species list? What are they threatened by?

Flick through the module and find...

- ▶ a text about an earthquake that happened many years ago
- ▶ a proposal to the town council to set up an organic farm
- ▶ a text about two ecologically friendly cities
- ▶ a letter to the editor about seal hunting
- ▶ a word-web with vocabulary relating to nature
- ▶ a text about gardens growing on rooftops

In this module you will...

- ▶ talk about the planet Earth, nature and the environment
- ▶ learn how to use appropriate forms/tenses to refer to the future
- ▶ learn how to use modal verbs to express obligation/necessity, absence of necessity, prohibition, possibility, deduction, and make suggestions or give advice
- ▶ learn how to emphasise an action rather than the doer of an action using the passive voice
- ▶ learn how to use the causative form
- ▶ expand your vocabulary by learning words relating to various aspects of nature and the environment, idioms relating to the weather and the elements, nouns used to classify animals, nouns deriving from phrasal verbs, etc.
- ▶ learn how to write a letter to the editor and proposals
- ▶ acquire skills and strategies that will help you in the exams

1. PRE-READING

Discuss.

- Are you interested in dinosaurs? Why/Why not?
- What do you know about dinosaurs?

The Dinosaur Saga

Our fascination with dinosaurs is brought on not only by their size, as many dinosaurs were immense compared to anything in the animal kingdom today, but also by the mystery behind some aspects of their existence and extinction. Controversy lies at the centre of both these issues. Regarding the former, the question is, did dinosaurs and humans coexist? Some evidence has come to light that may, in time and upon close examination, prove that they actually did, which has long been argued against by most paleontologists. Evidence has come in the form of an ornate carving of a stegosaurus found alongside other carvings of familiar-looking animals, such as monkeys, in the magnificent jungle temples of Cambodia. The assumption is that the artist must have seen a stegosaurus to have produced a carving of one. We must keep in mind that these temples were built some time during the eighth century AD, and that scientists have always assumed that this animal species, had by then, long ceased to exist.

The question for some, however, is not if they existed then, but if they continue to exist now. Yes, there are those who claim that this species may not have altogether disappeared! For them, it cannot be said without a shadow of a doubt that they no longer exist. They base their claims on fascinating reports of various sightings of dinosaurs. Some of these sightings have occurred deep in the mountainous interior of the mainland of Papua New Guinea of what has been identified as a pterosaur or flying serpent, and others in the unexplored regions of the African swamp and jungle of an animal whose description matches that of a sauropod dinosaur. Various expeditions have been launched to assess the authenticity of these claims, but evidence is as yet inconclusive. The question is, will we ever know for sure or are these issues destined to remain the bone of contention for years to come?

2. READING FOR DETAILS

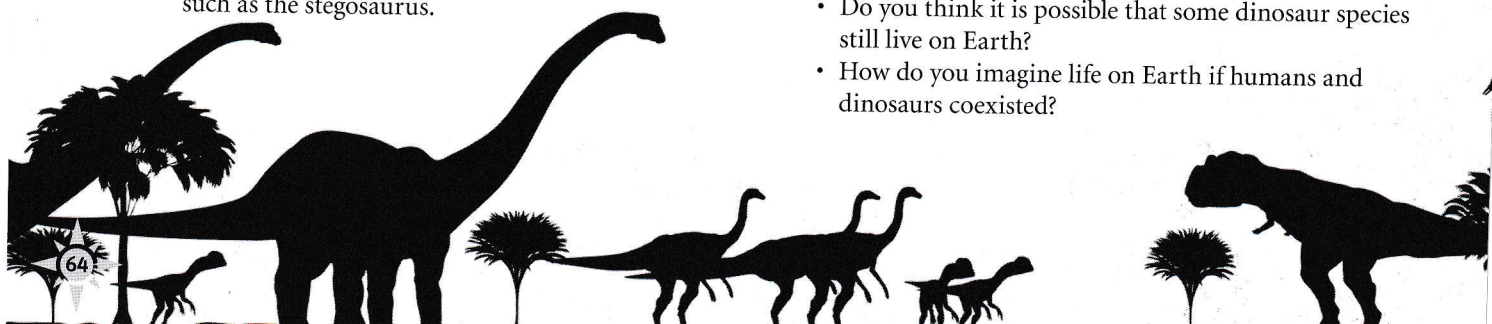
Read the text and answer the questions 1-5. Choose *a, b, c* or *d*.

- According to the text, we are intrigued by dinosaurs
 - because they became extinct a long time ago.
 - because we know very few things about them.
 - primarily because of their size.
 - because, besides being big, there are things that we do not know or understand about them.
- The idea that mankind coexisted with dinosaurs is suggested to be
 - an undisputed fact.
 - highly unlikely.
 - something that may eventually be proven.
 - something that most paleontologists agree on.
- What do we find out about the temples in Cambodia?
 - They are situated in a densely populated area.
 - They have carvings of various animals on them.
 - They were built just after dinosaurs ceased to exist.
 - They were dedicated to some magnificent animals such as the stegosaurus.
- Which dinosaur species are associated with reported sightings?
 - the stegosaurus and the pterosaur
 - the pterosaur and the sauropod dinosaur
 - the pterosaur and the flying serpent
 - the stegosaurus, the pterosaur and the sauropod dinosaur
- What are we told about the evidence in favour of the continued existence of dinosaurs?
 - It is adequate.
 - It is conclusive.
 - It is descriptive.
 - It is questionable.

3. POST-READING

Discuss.

- Do you think it is possible that some dinosaur species still live on Earth?
- How do you imagine life on Earth if humans and dinosaurs coexisted?



1. PRE-READING

Discuss.

- Which of the following do you think pose an inevitable global threat some time in the near future?
a colossal volcanic eruption rising sea levels an asteroid attack desertification
- What would the consequences be?

DISASTERS IN WAITING

Forget global terrorism - for most of the world's population, ticking time bombs like earthquakes, supervolcanoes and hurricanes pose a far greater threat. Natural disaster expert Bill McGuire reveals a few of the top catastrophes waiting to happen.

With NASA's eminent climate scientist, Jim Hansen, concerned that collapsing polar ice sheets could result in sea levels rising 1-2m this century and several more in the next, prospects for the Earth's coastal zones are bleak. A 1m rise would threaten one third of the world's agricultural land, while a 4m rise would maroon Miami 60km offshore. Rising sea levels is not the only threat to coastal regions. The Cumbre Vieja volcano on the Canary Island of La Palma is slowly creeping seawards. During a future eruption, this gigantic landslide will plunge into the ocean, pushing up a bulge of water close to a kilometre high, spawning a mega-tsunami capable of devastating all the coastal areas surrounding the North Atlantic.



Coastal regions also face the menace of desertification. By 2030, over half a billion people living around the shores of the Mediterranean will be viewing the encroaching desert with increasing panic. An area bigger than the UK, and home to 16 million people, is threatened - by the end of the century - with transformation from a green and pleasant land to a baking wilderness of sand and rock.

However, these disasters seem pale in comparison to the mega-catastrophes waiting to happen like supervolcanoes, for instance. Every 50 millennia or so, a colossal volcanic blast expels sufficient ash and gas to cover a continent and block the Sun's rays for years on end, heralding a bitter volcanic winter. At Yellowstone in Wyoming, US, two such super-eruptions have shattered the crust in the last 2.1 million years and the volcano there remains restless. An asteroid attack is another threat which would have devastating consequences. A total of 713 asteroids with diameters of 1km or more, and the potential to clobber the Earth at some future date, have been identified. A 2km asteroid would load the atmosphere with dust and trigger a sustained global freeze. Harvests would fail and billions would die. Fortunately, such collisions only happen every couple of million years.

2. READING FOR DETAILS

Read the text and answer the questions 1-5. Choose *a, b, c* or *d*.

1. According to the text, what poses an imminent threat to us?
 - a. the increase of global terrorism
 - b. the rise in the world's population
 - c. the consequences of climate change and natural disasters
 - d. time bombs waiting to go off
2. Which aspect of the Cumbre Vieja eruption will have the worst effects?
 - a. the eruption itself
 - b. the subsequent mega-tsunami
 - c. the plunge into the ocean
 - d. the resulting landslide
3. The process of desertification threatening the shores of the Mediterranean will occur
 - a. gradually
 - b. at the end of this century
 - c. to an area not quite as big as the UK
 - d. all of a sudden
4. Both supervolcanoes and asteroid attacks
 - a. result in eruptions.
 - b. expel gases into the atmosphere.
 - c. lead to extremely cold weather conditions.
 - d. happen once in a million years.
5. Why is the volcano at Yellowstone in Wyoming a potential threat?
 - a. It erupted twice in the last 2.1 million years.
 - b. Its eruption shattered the Earth's crust.
 - c. It expelled a large quantity of ash and gas.
 - d. It remains restless.

3. POST-READING

Discuss.

- Which threats to our planet do you find most frightening? Why?
- Do you think we can prepare for the consequences of climate change or the results of natural disasters? Why/Why not?

1. WORDS RELATING TO WEATHER CONDITIONS

Match the words in bold with their meanings a-j.

1. The forecast for Wednesday is low temperatures and **overcast** skies with **sleet** which will turn to snow as night approaches. Residents should be warned that there is a possibility of large **hail** and possible damage to automobiles and crops before nightfall. On Thursday, the combination of heavy snow and strong north winds will result in **blizzard** conditions developing in the area.
 2. The **muggy** weather along with the constant **drizzle** over the whole two weeks totally ruined our holiday. The travel agent had warned us that even though the temperature is actually not very high, the **humidity** can make it seem much hotter, but unfortunately, we didn't heed her advice.
 3. The country was suffering from **drought**, and when we went there, it was in the midst of the worst **heatwave** in history with temperatures topping 50°C. Conditions in the coastal cities were slightly better because of the cooler sea **breeze**.
- a. a period of time when the weather is much hotter than usual

 - b. small balls of ice that fall like rain

 - c. light rain

 - d. covered with clouds

 - e. the amount of water in the air

 - f. uncomfortably warm and damp

 - g. partly frozen rain

 - h. a long period of time with no rainfall

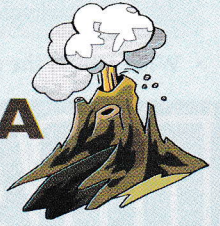
 - i. a severe snowstorm with strong winds

 - j. light wind

2. WORDS RELATING TO NATURAL DISASTERS

Read the texts below related to two of the deadliest natural disasters on record to date and match the words in bold with their meanings.

1 The 1815 ERUPTION of MOUNT TAMBORA



'The year without a summer' occurred in 1816 as a result of the largest volcanic eruption in recorded history. Mount Tambora located on Sumbawa island in the Indonesian Archipelago had lain unsuspectingly **dormant** for several centuries. Then, quite suddenly, in 1812 it became highly **active**. This volcanic activity reached its eruptive peak in 1815. The explosion caused the collapse of, what had till then been, one of the largest peaks in the Indonesian Archipelago. This spawned **tsunamis** which devastated neighbouring regions when wave **crests** with an **amplitude** of 10m battered the coast. From the collapsed peak was born a **crater**, otherwise known as a summit caldera from which **magma**, in the form of noxious gases, lava and ejecta, was spewed for more than five days. On the island of Sumbawa the sunlight was blocked by coarse ash particles for several days, while smaller particles in the stratosphere created an **ashcloud** which stayed airborne resulting in a reduction in global temperatures a year later.

- a. a sunken area that looks like a big hole

- b. a cloud made up of ash

- c. having recently erupted or likely to erupt in the immediate future

- d. the top of a wave

- e. a large wave that is brought on by a natural disaster such as an earthquake

- f. being inactive for a long period between eruptions

- g. molten rock under the Earth's surface (called lava when it is ejected)

- h. the height of a wave

2 THE 1556 EARTHQUAKE IN SHAANXI CHINA

The deadliest recorded earthquake occurred in 1556 in Shaanxi, China, during which 60% of the population was killed. At the **epicentre**, which was in the Wei River Valley in Shaanxi Province, not even one building was left standing. Most of the population lived in Yaodongs, which were artificial caves made of soil. The unstable nature of these caves resulted in catastrophe when **landslides** brought on by the earthquake destroyed them killing thousands of inhabitants, who were buried under the rubble, in the process. More still were killed because of falling debris as they tried to escape or were swallowed up when ground **rupture** occurred breaking the Earth's surface along the trace of the **fault**. The **magnitude** of the earthquake is estimated to have been around 8 degrees on the Richter scale. Although there have been earthquakes of a greater magnitude, the intensity of the **vibrations** are said to have been such that **aftershocks** continued to take place several times a month for half a year. Shaanxi is proof of the power generated by **seismic** activity, in that the 1556 earthquake literally transformed the landscape.

3. WORD COMBINATIONS

Look at these word combinations related to disasters. Use them to complete the sentences that follow so that they make sense.

relief aid death toll field hospital
health impact emergency drills
rescue efforts

- The tornado left a collapsed infrastructure in its wake, which meant that a _____ needed to be set up to provide emergency medical assistance to those who had been injured.
- It was feared that the _____ in Haiti would top 200,000.
- The representative of 'Doctors without Borders' says that it is necessary to speed up _____ if victims trapped in collapsed buildings are to survive.
- _____ need to be practised in schools to ensure that in the event of a hazard pupils know what to do without thinking about it.
- An international effort was made to send emergency _____ to survivors of the 2004 tsunami.
- The human _____ of natural disasters is not limited to the immediate effects of physical injury and mortality as most survivors struggle to contend with the long-lasting effects of post-traumatic stress.

- a large part of a mountain side that breaks off and falls down a slope _____
- a large crack in the ground below the surface _____
- a gap that has opened up during an earthquake _____
- the place above the point of origin of an earthquake _____
- related to an earthquake _____
- the amount of energy released by an earthquake _____
- shaking experienced during an earthquake _____
- tremors that occur after the main earthquake which are usually of a smaller scale _____

4. IDIOMS/EXPRESSIONS RELATING TO WEATHER AND THE ELEMENTS

Match the following idioms/expressions with their definitions.

- Tom has failed two history exams, has not done two assignments and has been late for class every day this week. He's really **skating on thin ice**.
- It turned out that the food and medical supplies that had been sent were just a **drop in the ocean** compared to what was needed to meet the needs of the disaster victims.
- Survivors of natural disasters suffering from post-traumatic stress can only **weather the storm** if they are provided with a lot of emotional support.
- The government official giving the press conference had difficulty answering questions as she **was in a fog** concerning how much destruction had been caused by the floods.
- I was one of a few to openly air my dissatisfaction with the evacuation process and I soon found myself **swimming against the tide**.
- The wind of change** in earthquake engineering, which led to old buildings being retrofitted to make them more resistant to seismic activity, blew only after a catastrophic earthquake had wreaked havoc and mass destruction.

- to overcome difficulties experienced
- not sufficient
- affecting an innovative transformation
- to be inadequately informed
- to think or act in an opposite way to the majority
- to take a big risk

5. NOUNS USED TO CLASSIFY ANIMALS

Match the two halves of the sentences.

- A kangaroo is a good example of a **marsupial**.
- Any animal or bird that feeds on dead matter
- The brachiosaurus may have been one of the largest dinosaurs to have walked the Earth
- A bat has a highly developed sense of hearing and smell
- A **predator** is an animal, such as a jaguar,
- Frogs are **amphibians**; they hatch from eggs in water
- Hibernating** animals are animals, like bears, that deal with harsh weather conditions
- The tough, horny scales on a crocodile's exterior

- because being **nocturnal** it is active during the night.
- is known as a **scavenger**.
- are characteristic of a **reptile**.
- whose young are born premature and are kept in a protective pouch until they develop fully.
- but then undergo a transformation that enables them to breathe air as adults.
- by sleeping through them.
- that hunts for its food.
- but as a **herbivore**, it only fed on plants.

1. FUTURE FORMS

A. Read the extracts from the text on page 65 and answer the questions that follow.

- During a future eruption, this gigantic landslide **will plunge** into the ocean, pushing up a bulge of water close to a kilometre high...*
 - What does the phrase in bold express?
 - a prediction
 - a future arrangement
 - a warning
- By 2030, over half a billion people living around the shores of the Mediterranean **will be viewing** the encroaching desert with increasing panic.*
 - What does the phrase in bold express?
 - a general opinion about the future
 - an action that will be completed before a specific time in the future
 - an action that will be in progress at a specific time in the future

B. Read the examples a-l and match them with the functions 1-10.

- My cousin Diana **is getting** married next Sunday.
- It has been predicted that several animal species **will have become** extinct by the end of this century.
- Shall we participate** in the Plant a Tree Day this year?
- I'm going to do** a postgraduate course in Environmental Studies.
- It's getting cold; **I'll turn on** the central heating.
- The sun is shining; **it's going to be** a lovely day.
- Hurry up! The train **is about to leave**.
- Will you help** me with my science project?
- By next June, **we will have been living** in this house for 20 years.
- Some scientists say that the ecosystem in the lake **is on the verge of being destroyed** completely.
- The president himself **will be speaking** at the conference organised in our town next week.
- The international conference about the protection of endangered marine species **starts** in Oslo on 31st March.
 - a suggestion
 - a spontaneous decision
 - a request
 - a decision that has already been made
 - an official timetable
 - a future plan or arrangement
 - a prediction based on evidence
 - an action that is likely to happen very soon
 - an action that will be completed before a specific time in the future
 - an action that will have been in progress until a specific time in the future

C. Choose the words/phrases that best complete the sentences below. There are two correct options for each sentence.

- At this rate, by the time we arrive at the airport, the check-in desk _____.
 - will have been closing
 - will have closed
 - is going to be closed
 - will close
- I hope you _____ and stay with me at my holiday home in Italy this summer.
 - will come
 - will have come
 - come
 - will have been coming
- By the end of the year, we _____ here for 8 years already!
 - will have lived
 - will have been living
 - are going to live
 - will live
- Lisa _____ her painting in the national art competition; I believe she has a good chance of winning.
 - will enter
 - will have entered
 - will have been entering
 - is going to enter
- A:** Where _____ next weekend?
B: I'm planning to visit a friend in Paris.
 - do you go
 - will you have gone
 - will you go
 - are you going
- The next train to Rome _____ at 8:15am from platform 2. Don't forget to validate your ticket before boarding the train.
 - leaves
 - will leave
 - will have left
 - will have been leaving

2. MODAL VERBS

A. Read the extracts from the text on page 64 and answer the questions that follow.

- The assumption is that the artist **must have seen** a stegosaurus to have produced a carving of one.*
- We **must keep** in mind that these temples were built some time during the eighth century AD.*
- Yes, there are those who claim that this species **may not have altogether disappeared!***
- For them, it **cannot be said** without a shadow of a doubt that they no longer exist.*

1. Match the phrases in bold 1-4 with their meanings a-d.

- a. something which is the right thing to do c. something that probably didn't happen
 b. a belief that something is not true d. a belief that something happened

2. Complete the table below with the missing verbs.

Obligation/necessity _____, have to, need to	Possibility _____, _____, could
Absence of necessity don't have to, don't need to, needn't	Deduction _____, _____
Prohibition _____, can't	Suggestion/advice should, ought to, had better

Grammar Reference p. 181.

B. Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first using modal verbs.

- I'm sure the man you saw wasn't John because he's gone on a safari in Africa.
It _____ because he's gone on a safari in Africa.
- You didn't call the vet immediately and that was wrong.
You _____ the vet immediately.
- There is a possibility that the wind will not stop before we set off.
The wind _____ before we set off.
- It is not required for volunteers to have their own tools in order to participate in the plant-a-tree day.
Volunteers _____ in order to participate in the plant-a-tree day.
- It is strictly forbidden to make an open fire in the forest.
Campers _____ in the forest.
- It is likely that dinosaurs became extinct due to a change in the Earth's climate.
Dinosaurs _____ due to a change in the Earth's climate.
- I'm almost sure that we are being followed.
Somebody _____.
- They woke me up in the middle of the night, which was absolutely unnecessary.
They _____ in the middle of the night.

EXAMINATION PRACTICE

Read the text below and complete the gaps. Use only one word in each gap.

The **TWILIGHT WORLD**

The *Twilight World* area at Bristol Zoo has a collection which includes some of the strangest-looking nocturnal animals in the world. Visitors to the zoo (1) _____ see various intriguing night animals and replicas of environments in nature; however, if you're afraid of the dark, you (2) _____ better stay at home. Although the nocturnal house of the zoo has been operating for almost 60 years, the idea is still relatively unique with only a few zoos (3) _____ nocturnal houses. Some scientists believe certain animals are nocturnal because it is safer for the animals to come out at night as they are (4) _____ likely to be attacked by predators. Many of the animals in the Twilight Zone are endangered and it is predicted that some will (5) _____ become extinct by the end of this century. The zookeepers (6) _____ to ensure that the animals' enclosures are as close to their natural environments as possible. In *Twilight World* there is a dusky desert region, a night forest, an underground world and a town house. The desert serves as home (7) _____ fluffy sand cats, jumping rodents with enormous feet called kangaroo rats and the lethal Aruba rattlesnake. The forest and underground sections are in darkness, eerily lit up (8) _____ the glow from the display boards. By the time visitors reach these areas, their eyes will have (9) _____ some time to adjust to the dark. In the forest, lives the mouse deer, (10) _____ is a bizarre-looking creature with pencil-thin legs supporting a large, mouse-like body. There is also the slow loris, which is one of the cutest animals in the world; it's small and cuddly like a teddy bear and it walks like a spaceman. You (11) _____ already have heard of sloths - the laziest animals; the Linnes two-toed sloth (12) _____ also be seen in the forest. This creature is (13) _____ lazy that moss grows over it! In the underground zone, there are, among others, the naked mole rat, the catfish and an axolotl, which looks like a big tadpole. The last section of the *Twilight World* (14) _____ be just about the creepiest place in the zoo. It is a replica of a kitchen full of mice and rats, but you don't (15) _____ to panic; the rodents are kept in glass containers.

5 listening

1. PREPARING FOR THE EXAM TASK

You will hear ten short conversations each of which is between a male and female speaker. From the three printed choices you must choose the statement that most closely conveys the meaning of the conversation. First, read the answer choices and try to predict what each conversation is about.

2. EXAMINATION TASK

Now, listen to the short conversations. From the three answer choices given, choose the answer which means about the same thing as what you hear, or that is true based upon what you hear.



1. a. He thinks Alice will take part in next year's marathon.
b. He thinks that Alice must be very disappointed.
c. He thinks Alice shouldn't run in the marathon.
2. a. She wishes she could take better pictures with her phone.
b. She doesn't believe it's worth taking a picture.
c. She will have to settle for a lower quality picture.
3. a. He would like to do conservation work in Australia.
b. She gained a sense of purpose from her experience.
c. She encourages him to have a similar experience.
4. a. He enjoys the outdoors.
b. He doesn't like cooking.
c. He is unsure what to do this weekend.
5. a. She is afraid.
b. He believes that the volcano is active.
c. He is refusing to leave.
6. a. He thinks that the woman is very brave.
b. She gets on his nerves.
c. He is impressed by her pictures.
7. a. He is willing to give some time to the project.
b. The volunteers are dissatisfied with their working conditions.
c. She thinks the project hasn't been affected by the limited resources.
8. a. He didn't enjoy the waterfall he saw in Greece.
b. He's not afraid of taking risks.
c. He thinks jumping off the waterfall isn't dangerous.
9. a. She thinks that protecting the environment is important.
b. He doesn't want to buy an environmentally-friendly car.
c. She thinks he's very indecisive.
10. a. He has written a book about protecting endangered species.
b. He hopes to read a book over the weekend.
c. She lent him a book about endangered tigers.

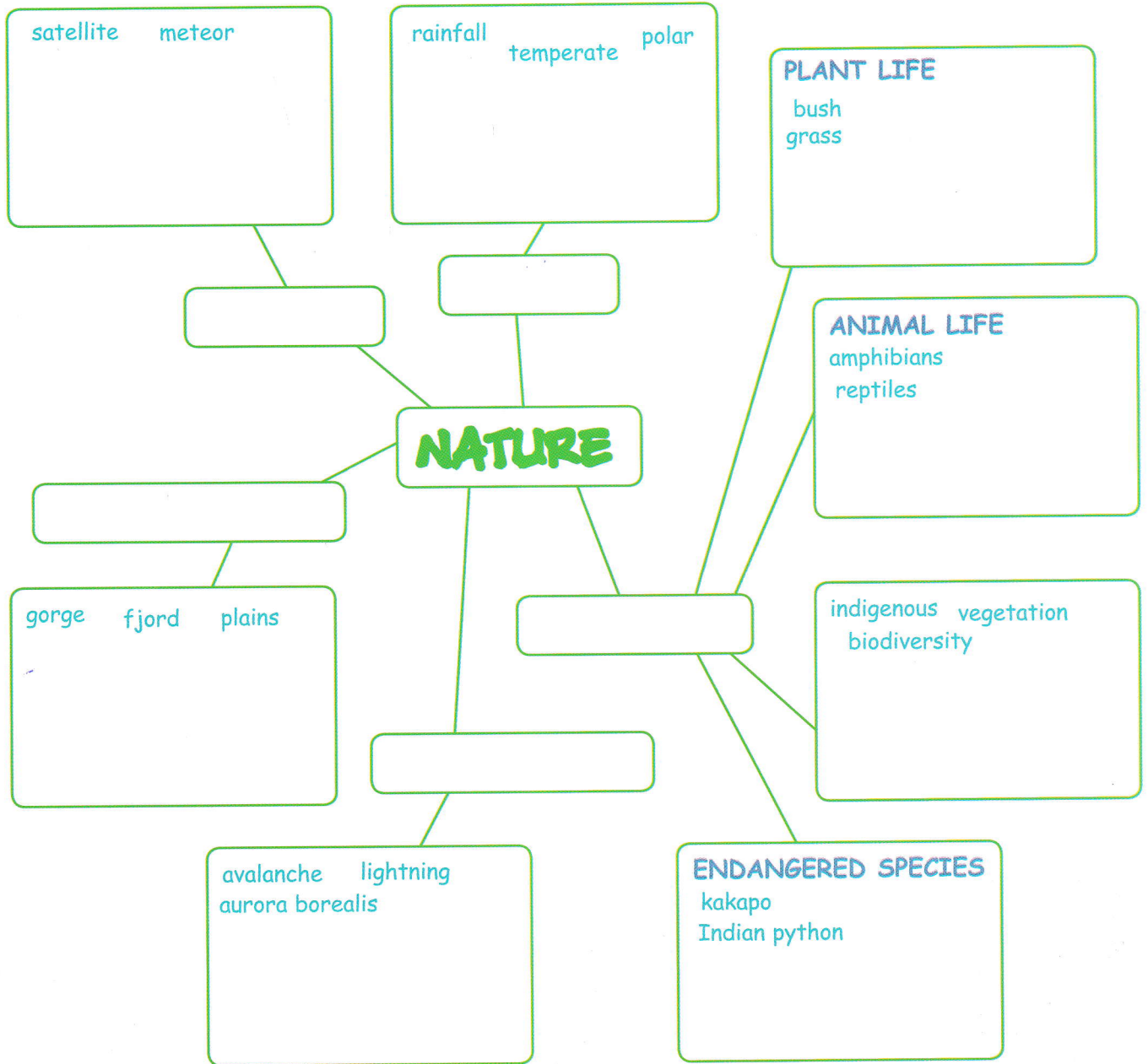
TIP

- Be aware of colloquial expressions, functional language and question forms.
- Familiarise yourself with functions such as refusals, apologies, invitations and other common phrases.
- While listening, try to understand what the speaker's purpose is for saying something. Remember that quite often you have to infer what the speaker means.
- Listen carefully to the speakers' tone of voice. It may give you valuable information about how they feel.
- Use the pause between the dialogues to read the three choices carefully and keep the dialogue in mind before deciding on the correct answer.
- Don't work on a question when the next dialogue is being spoken.

NATURE WORD WEB

A. Look at the word web and label the categories of words using the headings in the box. Then add as many words as you can to each category.

geographical features climate natural phenomena flora and fauna solar system



B. Now complete the sentences below using words from the word web.

- Two people were killed and three are still missing after a series of _____ struck the Swiss Alps last weekend.
- It is of utmost importance to maintain the extent of the forest as well as its _____.
- At this altitude no trees can grow and only a few _____ and other plants can survive.
- _____ are animals that can live both on land and in water.
- The _____ has been below average this year and farmers are worried about their crops.
- The Moon is a natural _____ that orbits the Earth.
- The buffalo played an important role in the lives of the people who inhabited the _____.
- It is said that dinosaurs became extinct after a _____ hit the Earth.
- A sudden flash of _____ lit up the night sky.
- In the _____ area in Norway, the quickest way to get around is by boat.

5 speaking

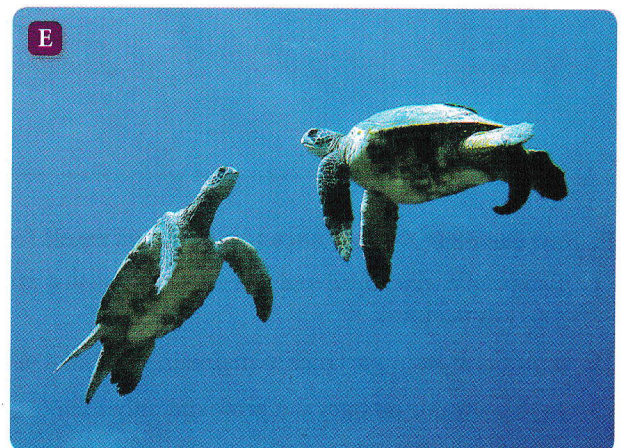
1. DISCUSS

- Are there any endangered species of animals or plants in your country? Can you name any?
- Whose responsibility is it to protect these plants/animals?

2. SPECULATING AND MAKING A DECISION

Talk in pairs. Look at the pictures C and E and talk about what you think the main threats to the endangered species shown are. Then, look at all the pictures. Imagine you are responsible for organising a fundraising event to protect two of the species shown. Which two would you choose? Why? You can use some of the words in the box.

destruction of habitats
cutting down rainforest / deforestation
global warming
expansion of cities and towns
poaching
pollution of sea/ocean



3. FURTHER DISCUSSION

- Why do you think it is important to protect the wildlife of our planet?
- What do you think the consequences would be for the future if we were to lose important aspects of nature such as plants and animals?
- How do you think the habitats of endangered species can be protected?

extinction science medicine recreation predator/prey relationship strictly controlled
conservation work environmental protection

WRITING A LETTER TO THE EDITOR**1. DISCUSS**

- Killing animals for their fur or other parts of their body has come in for a lot of criticism in recent years. What is your opinion of exploiting animals in this way?
- What are the arguments people put forward in favour of / against this practice?

2. FOCUS ON CONTENT AND ORGANISATION**A. Read the rubric and the extract from the article. Underline the key words and answer the questions below.**

You read this extract from an article in a local newspaper about seal hunting and wish to respond to it expressing your opinion.

Write your letter to the editor of the newspaper.

1. What are you required to write? To whom?
2. What three points must you respond to?

Animal rights activists and seal hunters have clashed once again as thousands of hunters set off for their annual hunt. Shocking video footage of seals being clubbed to death has sparked another debate on the issue. According to hunters, clubbing is a means of killing seals which has been used for centuries and they point out that there is a great demand for seals products. On the other hand, animal rights and environmental groups and their supporters do not think these reasons justify the brutal slaying of these animals.

**B. Read the letter written in response and answer the questions.**

1. In what part of the letter does the writer first express her opinion?
2. What argument made by hunters does the writer respond to in the second paragraph?
3. What argument does she respond to in the third paragraph?

Dear Sir / Madam,

As a concerned member of society, I would like to express my opinion with regard to the article in your newspaper about seal hunting. I firmly believe that seal hunting is unethical and cruel, and that it should be banned altogether.

To begin with, the methods used to kill seals are inhumane and cause pain and suffering to the animals. Hunters may claim that clubbing is a traditional method for killing seals and does not necessarily result in needless torment to the animal. However, video footage showing what actually takes place is proof that their claims are groundless. In fact, after being clubbed, many seals are still alive during the skinning process. Inflicting this sort of torture on any living creature is completely unjustifiable.

Furthermore, I would like to point out that seal hunting is dependent on the demand for seal products, which are mainly fur and other types of clothing, footwear and cosmetics. In my opinion, seal products are by no means a necessity. In our day and age, we are fortunate enough to have access to other man-made materials and substances that can effectively replace animal fur and fat. It is unethical to slaughter thousands of these animals for the sole purpose of satisfying our vanity.

In conclusion, seal hunting is a barbaric practice which results in the senseless killing of thousands of animals every year. The way I see it, the only way to stop this tragedy is for governments to take radical action and ban the hunting of seals.

Yours faithfully,

Diana Anderson

Diana Anderson

3. FOCUS ON LANGUAGE AND STYLE

A. Read the opening paragraph of the letter again and answer the following questions.

1. How does the writer of the letter address the recipient? What other greeting(s) could she possibly use?
2. Which phrase in the first sentence of the introductory paragraph indicates in what capacity Diana Anderson is writing? What set phrases does she use in the first sentence?
3. What information is included in the first paragraph?

B. All the sentences below could be included in the opening paragraph of a letter to a newspaper/magazine. Complete the sentences with the words in the box. Use each word only once.

connection response issue prompted
signed regarding thought entirely
entitled dated concerned strongly

1. I am writing in _____ with an article I read in your newspaper _____ 12th April.
2. I have been _____ to write to you by the article _____ Global Gauge which appeared in your newspaper last Sunday.
3. I _____ agree with the points raised _____ the problem of sound pollution and I would like to refer to it from a different perspective and provide your readers with some further food for _____.
4. I am writing in _____ to the letter written by Ms Amelia Brown and published in your magazine as I am seriously _____ about the _____ discussed.
5. The article _____ by Mr Roger Lee raised some crucial issues which I feel very _____ about.

C. Read the extract from the article and the letter again and find all the phrases which refer to 'killing' seals.

D. In the first sentence of the second paragraph, the writer uses the phrase *cause pain and suffering*. What other words in the same paragraph have a similar meaning?

E. Read the sentences 1-7 and match the words/phrases in bold with the less formal equivalents a-g.

1. In the future, hopefully, people will **refrain from** repeating these harmful actions.
2. We should be setting an example for others to **emulate**.
3. If this situation is to be **reversed**, a greater effort must be made to educate younger generations.
4. Schools must **incorporate** environmental studies in their curriculum.
5. People are quick to point a finger but often fail to see their own **shortcomings**.
6. It is our duty to make sure these antiquities are preserved for **posterity**.
7. Sadly, it is only when it is too late for something to be done to **rectify** the situation that we realise what treasures we have lost.

- a. future generations
b. copy
c. faults
d. stop
e. correct
f. include
g. change

F. Find the linking words/phrases for listing points and expressing opinion that the writer has used in the letter and add them to the table below.

Listing points	Giving your opinion
Firstly	I was saddened to read
In the first place	From my point of view
Finally	It is my belief
Last but not least	I have to disagree with

4. BRAINSTORMING

Read the rubric and the extract below and answer the questions that follow.

You read this extract from an article in a local newspaper about forest fires and wish to respond to it expressing your opinion. Write your letter to the editor of the newspaper.

Summer is approaching and once again forest fires will break out in various parts of the country causing death and destruction. Major sources of oxygen will be lost and forest animals will lose their lives and their habitats. Come autumn, the loss of large areas of forest will result in flooding of low-lying cities and towns affecting large sectors of the population. Environmental groups support that lack of city planning and poor forest management are to blame, while authorities often deny responsibility putting the fires down to arson and unfavourable weather conditions.



1. What are the three points you have to respond to?
2. In your opinion, what causes forest fires?
3. Do you think the authorities do enough to prevent them?
4. Can you make any suggestions concerning the problem?

5. OUTLINE

When writing a letter to the editor of a newspaper or magazine, follow the outline below.

GREETING

Use an appropriate formal greeting (Dear Sir or Madam, Dear Editor).

OPENING PARAGRAPH

Briefly refer to the subject of your letter, state your reason for writing, and if appropriate, give information about the article you are responding to. If relevant, mention in what capacity or on whose behalf you are writing.

MAIN BODY (2-3 PARAGRAPHS)

Explain your point of view, taking into consideration relevant aspects of the issue. You may also suggest alternatives or propose solutions and refer to any inaccuracies giving the actual facts.

CLOSING PARAGRAPH

Suggest alternatives or propose solutions if you have not done so previously. End your letter with a forceful statement in order to back up your opinion and make the reader consider the issue and its consequences more closely.

SIGNING OFF

- Use an appropriate signature ending (Yours faithfully).
- Sign underneath and print your full name below your signature.



When writing a letter expressing your opinion:

- write in an appropriate style; the overall tone should be polite but strong feelings should be stated firmly.
- state your opinion clearly.
- group related ideas together in paragraphs.
- list ideas in order of importance.
- use linking words and phrases.

6. WRITING TASK

Write your letter to the editor using your ideas in activity 4 (250-300 words).

6 reading

1. PRE-READING

Discuss.

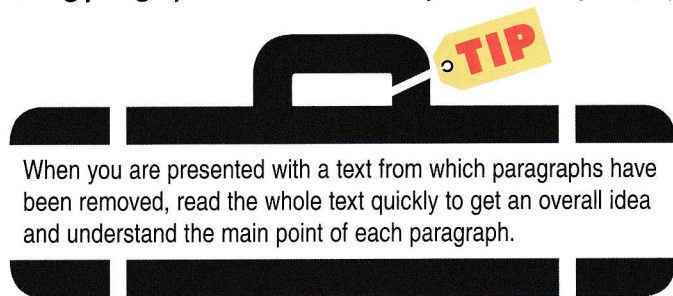
- Which of the following aspects of modern-day cities do you find most unappealing?

traffic jams noise pollution
air pollution overpopulation
high-rise buildings lack of open spaces
lack of vegetation

- What does the term *eco-city* suggest to you?

2. READING FOR GIST

Seven paragraphs have been removed from the text below. Read the text quickly without paying any attention to the missing paragraphs. What is the main point of each paragraph?



When you are presented with a text from which paragraphs have been removed, read the whole text quickly to get an overall idea and understand the main point of each paragraph.

Welcome to Eco-City

The world has quietly undergone a major shift in balance. According to UN estimates, 2008 marked the first year in history when more than half of the world's population lived in cities. There are now around 3.4bn human beings stuffed into every available corner of urban space, and more are set to follow. At a time when humanity has woken up to its responsibility to the environment, the continuing urban swell presents an immense challenge. In response, cities all over the world are setting themselves high targets to reduce carbon emissions and produce clean energy. But if **they** don't succeed, there is another option: building new eco-cities entirely from scratch.

1

'Rather than just design a city in the same way we'd done it before, we can focus on how to minimise the use of resources to show that there is a different way of doing it', says Roger Wood, associate director at Arup. Wood is one of hundreds of people at Arup, the engineering and architecture giant, hired by Shanghai Industrial Investment Corporation to set out a master plan for the Dongtan eco-city.

2

When the first demonstrator phase is complete, Dongtan will be a modest community of 5000. By 2020, that will balloon to 80,000 and in 2050, the 30km² site will be home to 500,000. Arup says that every one of **those people** will be no more than seven minutes' walk from public transport. Only electric vehicles will be allowed in the city and residents will be discouraged from using even those because each village is planned so that the need for motorised transport is minimal.

3

That's a big cornerstone of Arup's design for Dongtan. The aim is that the city will require 66 per cent less energy than a conventional development, with wind turbines and solar panels complementing some 40 per cent that comes from biological sources. **These** include human sewage and municipal waste, both of which will be controlled for energy recovery and composting. Meanwhile, a combined heat and power plant will burn waste rice husks.

4

Work on Dongtan had been scheduled to begin in late 2008 with the first demonstration phase completed by 2010. Unfortunately, problems resulting from the complicated planning procedures in China have led to setbacks. Dongtan's rival project in Abu Dhabi has suffered no such hold-ups. Engineers broke ground on the Masdar eco-city in March 2008. Although it will take a different approach in terms of design, like Dongtan, the city is planned to be a zero-carbon, über-efficient showcase for sustainable living.

5

In the blistering desert of the Gulf state, where it's almost too hot to venture outdoors for three or four months of the year, the big question for Masdar is how to keep cool without turning on the air-conditioning. In this equation, insulation and ventilation suddenly become more important than the performance of solar panels. To maximise shade, the city's streets are packed closely together, with limits of four or five storeys set on the height of most buildings.

6

The other major design feature for Masdar is that the whole city is raised on a deck. The pedestrian level will be free of vehicles and much of the noisy maintenance that you see in modern cities. Cars are banned from Masdar entirely, while an underground network of 'podcars' ferries people around the city.

7

Given that **this concern** is legitimate, developers of both cities would do well to incorporate both a range of housing and jobs to make them inclusive to everyone. **This** will be difficult, obviously, but then just about everything is difficult when you're completely reinventing the way we build and live in a metropolis. And supposing these sustainable and super-efficient cities are successful, could they even usher in a new world order?