



NATURE

“Look deep into nature, and then you will understand everything better.”

Albert Einstein (1879 – 1955), theoretical physicist

1. Nature Discussion

1. What is nature?
2. How important is nature to the world? How important is nature to humans?
3. What are the most beautiful things in nature?
4. Which natural places around the world would you most like to see?
5. How do you feel when you are in nature? How does nature affect people's mental health?
6. Would you like to live a natural life? Would you survive living in nature?
7. How important is nature to your culture? Which cultures do you think appreciate nature the most? Which cultures appear to appreciate nature the least?
8. Why have cultures all over the world developed the concept of 'Mother Nature' and not 'Father Nature'?

2. Nature Vocabulary

- **the great outdoors** (noun) – *the countryside, especially those areas popular for outdoor activities such as camping or hiking.*
- **greenspace** (noun) – *an area of grass or trees in a city or town.*
- **brehtaking** (adjective) – *extremely beautiful, astonishing or amazing.*
- **to be in awe of something** (saying) – *to have a feeling combining wonder and amazement with fear and dread.*
- **to get/go back to nature** (verb/idiom) – *to live in a simple way such as before the development of modern technology and electricity, especially in a rural or natural place.*
- **to let nature take its course** (verb/idiom) – *to allow something to happen naturally.*

Using the vocabulary words above, complete the following sentences (remember to use the correct form of the word, e.g. verb conjugation or plural noun):

1. Every year we visit **the great outdoors** for a family camping trip.
2. Local residents protested plans to build a new shopping centre on the city's only **greenspace**.
3. Mark decided **to go back to nature** by hiking across the Pyrenees for two weeks with nothing but a tent and a fishing rod.
4. People opposed to vaccinations believe we should **let nature take its course** and rely on our immune systems to protect us.
5. The children **were in awe of** the elephants at the safari park.
6. The Iguazu Falls is one of the most **brehtaking** sights in the world.

Books vocabulary comprehension questions

1. How often do you visit the great outdoors? Where are your favourite places to visit? What do you like to do there?
2. Are there many greenspaces in your city? Are there enough? How could your city be made greener?
3. Which breathtaking places in your country should tourists visit?
4. Which natural places have you been in awe of?
5. Wouldn't it be better if humans went back to nature?
6. When is it best to let nature take its course?

3. Video: The Importance of Trees

You are going to watch a video by TED Ed called "What happens if you cut down all of a city's trees?"

Watch the video here: <https://yourenglishpal.com/blog/esl-conversation-lesson-plan-nature/>

While you watch the video, answer the following questions:

Multiple choice

1. What did Uruk have to expand to feed its growing population?
a) agricultural system **b) irrigation system** c) sanitation system
2. Trees were cut down in Uruk to make space for more what?
a) buildings b) shops **c) crops**
3. Why were trees not cut down in Anuradhapura?
a) religious beliefs b) scientific reasons c) geological concerns
4. Where were additional trees planted in Anuradhapura?
a) countryside parks b) natural parks **c) urban parks**

Sentence completion

5. With no trees to filter the water supply, Uruk's irrigation system became **contaminated**.
6. Anuradhapura's irrigation system was designed to work in concert with the surrounding **forest**.
7. Tree roots can help prevent **floods** and reduce the need for storm drains.
8. As leaves capture carbon, trees are crucial to combat **climate change**.

Short answer

9. For our mental health, what can the presence of trees help to reduce? **Stress (levels)**
10. When did city planners begin to see the importance of trees in cities? **The 18th century**
11. The development of parks in Copenhagen made the city more resilient to what? **Pollution and natural disasters**
12. How much of Singapore is covered by trees and other vegetation? **50%**

4. Nature Conversation Questions

1. Would you prefer to live in the countryside, or would you prefer to live in a big city? Why?
2. Why do so many people live in big cities away from nature?
3. Where would you go to get some fresh air in your city?
4. What are some things humans are doing that harm nature?
5. What should governments do to protect nature?
6. How can you help protect nature?
7. How do you think nature will be 100 years in the future?
8. Do you think humans will eventually destroy nature? If so, how? Is there any way humans could survive without nature?

5. Nature Writing Task

Write about your opinion of nature. Try to use some of the vocabulary you learned earlier in this lesson. In your answer, you could include some of the following topics:

- The most beautiful things in nature.
- How being in nature makes you feel.
- The greatest threats to nature.

Alternative exam practice question:

These days, with so many people living stressful lives, it is more important than ever that people take the time to reconnect with nature. What are the best activities to do to reconnect with nature? What are the health benefits of reconnecting with nature?