"I have learned you are never too small to make a difference."

Greta Thunberg, environmental activist

1. Conservation Discussion

1. What is nature conservation? Why is it important?
2. What are the most beautiful natural places on Earth?
3. Which areas of natural beauty can you find in your country?
4. What human activities are threatening and destroying natural areas?
5. Which natural areas are protected in your country? Why are these areas protected?
6. Why don't people or governments appear to be concerned about conservation? How concerned are you?
7. Which organisations are dedicated to the conservation of natural areas? Do you think they are doing a good job?
8. What do you think professional conservationists do? Is this a job you think you would like?

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2. Conservation Vocabulary

- **nature reserve** (noun) – *a natural protected area.*
- **wetland** (noun) – *land where there is a lot of water like swamps and marshes.*
- **conservation, conservationist** (noun) – *the protection of natural areas and the plants and animals within them; the careful use of resources to avoid waste; someone who works in, or campaigns for, conservation.*
- **woodland** (noun) – *an area covered by trees.*
- **ecology** (noun), **ecological** (adjective) – *the study of organisms and how they interact with their environment and each other; relating to living things and their relationship with the environment.*
- **tree hugger** (noun) – *an environmental activist or campaigner, often used as an insult.*

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. Environmental groups warned that without a strong **conservation** policy, irreversible damage will be done to the Amazon Rainforest.
2. In the Pantanal **Wetland** between Brazil, Paraguay and Bolivia, you can see many animals that live around the water such as caimans, capybaras, and river birds.
3. In the past, the entire north of England was covered in **woodland**, but today, only a few patches of trees remain.
4. Invasive species could cause an **ecological** disaster if they are released in an area where they have no natural predators.
5. The British government caused outrage amongst environmental groups when it passed a law saying developers could construct in **nature reserves** as long as they 'make up' for the damage elsewhere.
6. **Tree huggers** blocked a motorway to protest against a new road that is planned to be built through a greenspace.

Conservation vocabulary comprehension questions

1. What is the best nature reserve you have been to? Why did you like it so much?
2. Have you ever visited any wetlands? What plants and animals can you find in a wetland?
3. Should children be taught about the importance of conservation in school? Would it be a good idea for them to take part in conservation activities as part of their curriculum?
4. Where is the nearest woodland to where you live? Do you ever visit it?
5. Why have experts warned there could be an ecological disaster in the future?
6. What do you think about tree huggers? Do you approve of some of their actions to protect nature?

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3. Video: How to Save the Planet

You are going to watch a video by WWF International called "How to Save Our Planet."

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

While you watch the video, answer the following questions:

Multiple choice

1. How many years ago did humans consist of just one million hunter-gatherers?
   a) 10,000 ***b) 20,000*** *c) 30,000*
2. What determined early humans' survival?
   a) food *b) water* ***c) nature***
3. How many trees have humans cut down?
   a) 3 million *b) 3 billion* ***c) 3 trillion***
4. By how much has the population of wild animals reduced over the last 50 years?
   a) 50% ***b) 60%*** *c) 70%*

Sentence completion

5. Humans and domesticated animals account for **96%** of the mass of all the mammals on Earth.
6. Biodiversity **loss** is the greatest issue the world faces.
7. As societies develop, people have fewer **children**.
8. Humans can reduce their **impact** by making sure that everything they do, they can do forever.

Short answer

9. To protect the environment, what should be replaced by renewables? **Fossil fuels**
10. What type of food consumption should be reduced to help the environment? **Meat**
11. A network of what should be established to restore the health of the ocean and increase the number of fish? **No-fish zones**
12. What is the alternative name for the Anthropocene? **The age of humans**

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4. Conservation Conversation Questions

1. What should governments do to conserve natural areas? What is your government doing?
2. Which countries have a good record on conservation? Which countries have a bad reputation for protecting natural areas?
3. Is conservation of nature something that the national media in your country gives a lot of attention to?
4. Is our economic system compatible with conservation? Is it to blame for the destruction of nature?
5. How could our economic system be changed to become more sustainable?
6. Is it the duty of everyone to help conserve nature? What things could you do to help with nature conservation?
7. Do you think people will consider conservation more or less important in the future?
8. What will our grandchildren think about the way we treated the planet?

5. Conservation Writing Task

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

- What governments should do to protect natural areas.
- What individuals can do to help protect natural areas.
- What our grandchildren will think about the way we treated their planet.

Alternative exam practice question:

It is clear that without a change in the current economic model, humans will continue to destroy nature and will eventually cause an ecological disaster. How does our current economic model contribute to environmental damage? How could this economic model change to become more sustainable?

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