

Unit 12

Unit 12 Extension

Student A

- 1** You and your partner are going to do a quiz about 'The effect of humankind on the landscape'. Read these facts and figures, but don't show them to your partner. Then take turns to ask your partner the quiz questions.
- If you don't understand the question, ask for it to be repeated.
 - Think carefully and try to identify any 'trick' questions.

You: I'm ready for the quiz. You go first.

Student B: OK, here comes the first question.

1 Forests

A report from the UN in 2010 shows that forest cover has doubled in the UK since 1920. Nowadays, around 12 per cent of the UK is covered in forests or woodland. The European average for the percentage of land area covered by forests is 45 per cent. Other examples:

Finland 73% France 29% Spain 36% Africa 23% North and Central America 33%
South America 49%

Question: Can you match the countries and continents (1–4) with the figures (a–d) for the percentage of land covered by forest or woodland?

1 Africa 2 Finland 3 South America 4 UK
a 12% b 23% c 49% d 73%

2 Oceans

Evidence shows that glaciers and polar ice sheets are melting. The last significant ice-melt was 120,000 years ago, when the Greenland ice sheet melted. This had the effect of raising sea levels to around seven metres higher than they are today.

Question: The Greenland ice sheet melted 120,000 years ago. How much lower were sea levels then than they are now?

a 7 metres b 26 metres c 53 metres

3 Light

Hong Kong has extremely high light-pollution levels – roughly 1,000 times brighter than globally accepted levels. (International Dark Sky Standard is a measurement of man-made light.)

Question: Who or what is the International Dark Sky Standard?

- a a measurement of man-made light levels
- b an international agreement to turn off unnecessary lighting
- c an international organisation for astronomers

4 Uluru

Uluru (formerly known as 'Ayers Rock') is a site sacred to the Aboriginal people of Australia. It is breathtakingly beautiful, red-coloured, 348 m high, 3.6 km long and 9.4 km in circumference. This makes it the largest known monolith (solid lump of rock) on the planet. To get to it, you have to drive 450 km south from Alice Springs, a town in Australia's Northern Territories.

Question: Uluru is a monolith in Northern Australia. Who or what is a monolith?

- a a type of animal
- b a small town or village
- c a lump of rock

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- 2** With your partner, discuss what you have found out through doing the quiz. What questions or issues might these facts raise about the effect of humans on their landscape?

You: Some of those facts are really surprising.

Student B: I know. I didn't realise that only 23 per cent of Africa is covered in forest. I thought it would be more than that.

You: I'd love to visit the Atacama desert and look at the stars.

Student B: I've always wanted to go to the Maldives – they look like paradise!

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Student B

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Student A: I'm ready for the quiz. You go first.

You: OK, here comes the first question.

1 The Maldives

These are a series of beautiful coral islands in the Indian Ocean. None of them rises more than 180 cm above sea level.

Question: What and where are the Maldives?

- a mountains in the South of India
- b coral islands in the Indian Ocean
- c volcanic islands in the Pacific Ocean

2 Tourism in Ecuador

The Galapagos Islands are inhabited by curious and fantastic animals, some of which are found nowhere else on Earth. And that's what has made the islands a unique tourist destination. But this World Heritage Site is now in danger due to uncontrolled tourism. In 1990, 40,000 people visited the islands; this figure had risen to 145,000 by 2012.

Question: In 2012, how many people visited the Galapagos Islands?

- a about 40,000
- b about 140,000
- c about 400,000

3 The Atacama desert

The Atacama desert is in northern Chile and is the highest desert on Earth. It has virtually zero levels of light or air pollution. It is incredibly beautiful, if rather inhospitable, and is a wonderful place for star-gazing.

Question: Which superlative describes the Atacama desert in Northern Chile?

- a hottest
- b wettest
- c highest

4 Deforestation

Over the last 5,000 years, it has been estimated that some 1.8 billion hectares of forest has disappeared and in 2012, the rate of annual loss was approximately 5.2 million hectares. That is more than 25 per cent of the area of the UK. (A hectare of land measures 100 m × 100 m.) The most significant cause of deforestation is farming.

Question: How many hectares of forest were lost in 2012?

- a 5.2 million
- b 13.4 million
- c 26.8 million

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