

## The natural world

**1** Read the text and decide which answer (A, B, C or D) best completes each collocation or fixed phrase.

Whenever we read about the natural world nowadays, it is generally to be given dire predictions about its (1) ..... destruction. Some scientists go so (2) ..... as to assert that from now on, the world can no longer be called 'natural', insofar as future processes of weather, climate and all the interactions of plant and animal life will no longer carry on in their time-honoured way, unaffected by humans. There will never be such a thing as 'natural weather' again, say such writers, only weather affected by global warming. It is hard to know whether to believe such (3) ..... of doom, possibly because what they are saying seems too terrible to be true. There are other equally influential scientists who argue that climate, for example, has changed many times over the (4) ..... , and that what we are experiencing now may simply be part of an endless (5) ..... of change, rather than a disaster on a global (6) .....

- |                  |             |              |          |
|------------------|-------------|--------------|----------|
| 1) A coming      | B close     | C imminent   | D nigh   |
| 2) A much        | B deep      | C long       | D far    |
| 3) A prophets    | B champions | C warriors   | D giants |
| 4) A generations | B millennia | C centuries  | D eras   |
| 5) A revolution  | B circle    | C round      | D cycle  |
| 6) A measure     | B scale     | C proportion | D extent |

**2** Both options make sense. Underline the one which forms a common collocation.

- Could you close the window? There's a bit of a *current/draught*.
- I'm soaked, I got caught in a *downpour/torrent*.
- Through my binoculars I watched a tiger stalking its *food/prey*.
- Many species of wildlife could become *extinct/defunct* if left unprotected.
- I feel hungry. Could you *peel/skin* an apple for me?
- Don't be afraid of the monkey, it's quite *tame/trained*.
- Our country has many natural *resources/sources*.
- Marcia is very much into environmental *facts/issues* at the moment.
- Local people are concerned about pollution from *sea-located/off-shore* oil wells.
- That's an unusual dog. What *breed/race* is it?

- 3** Match the words from the box with the creature with which they are associated. Use each word only once.

|         |        |        |        |        |       |           |        |
|---------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|-----------|--------|
| scratch | blind  | flock  | hole   | ivory  | lead  | nocturnal |        |
| spray   | kitten | tusks  | bark   | squeak | purr  | buzz      | kennel |
| mane    | roar   | stable | trap   | wing   | whine | cub       | hive   |
| hoof    | lamb   | net    | saddle | sting  | trunk | wool      |        |

- |             |       |        |        |
|-------------|-------|--------|--------|
| a) horse    | hoof  | stable | saddle |
| b) bee      | ..... | .....  | .....  |
| c) lion     | ..... | .....  | .....  |
| d) mosquito | ..... | .....  | .....  |
| e) dog      | ..... | .....  | .....  |
| f) sheep    | ..... | .....  | .....  |
| g) elephant | ..... | .....  | .....  |
| h) mouse    | ..... | .....  | .....  |
| i) bat      | ..... | .....  | .....  |
| j) cat      | ..... | .....  | .....  |

- 4** Complete each sentence with a word formed from the word in capitals.

- |  |             |
|--|-------------|
| a) Kapo the gorilla was born and bred in ..... captivity .....                           | CAPTIVE     |
| b) In the wild Kapo's chances of ..... would be slim.                                    | SURVIVE     |
| c) The river cleaning project is run by conservation .....                               | VOLUNTARY   |
| d) The white rhino is now an ..... species.  | DANGER      |
| e) ..... claim that the virus among seals was caused by pollution.                       | ENVIRONMENT |
| f) She may look fierce but the lioness has ..... instincts like any other female animal. | MOTHER      |
| g) The fish in the river provide an ..... supply of fish for the young bears.            | ABOUND      |
| h) The whale shark reaches ..... at the age of 30.                                       | MATURE      |
| i) Nowadays only a ..... of wild crocodiles remain there.                                | HAND        |
| j) Nowhere epitomises the wonderful ..... of nature better than the jungle.              | DIVERSE     |

**5** Complete the spaces by finding one word which fits in all three sentences.

- a) Glaciers provide vital evidence of climate *change* .....  
 What you need is not pills but a simple *change* ..... of scene.  
 If you need money, there's some spare *change* ..... in my coat pocket.
- b) Grassland and savannah ..... a substantial part of Southern Africa.  
 It's a long journey – let's take some books to ..... the children.  
 The protesting students intend to ..... the Holman Building.
- c) The vet said the ..... on the dog's face was not cancerous.  
 She had a ..... in her throat and a tear in her eye when she said goodbye.  
 Get up and do some work, you lazy ..... !
- d) Many of the wildebeest didn't make it and ..... half-way across the river.  
 My voice was ..... out by the sound of builders drilling.  
 I ..... my meal in sauce to hide the bitter taste.
- e) The falconer trained the hawk to fly in a perfectly ..... line.  
 So let's get this ..... ; you say you saw the man break in through the window.  
 Why can't you just give me a ..... answer for once in your life?

**6** Underline the most appropriate word to complete each sentence.

- a) Last year this tree was struck by lightning/thunder/a storm.
- b) I like spring best, when the apple trees are in blooming/blossom/flowers.
- c) Something must be done to protect wild/wilderness/wildlife.
- d) When I want to relax, I go for a walk in the countryside/the nature/the outside.
- e) In this part of the country, the earth/the land/the soil is quite expensive.
- f) Suddenly we saw a ship appear on the atmosphere/horizon/sky. We were saved!
- g) Most animals will attack you to protect their babies/litters/young.
- h) Julia recently discovered a new category/make/species of fruit-fly.
- i) We got soaked to the skin in the torrential drizzle/downpour/snow.
- j) While I was eating cherries I accidentally swallowed a nut/pip/stone.