Nature and Environment

Reading Comprehension

Read the following passages carefully and answer the questions.

Reading Passage 1

16.3 *Humans and Nature*

Early humans lived in **chilly** caves or high in the **limbs** of
trees so that animals could not attack them. As time went by,
humans learned to make their lives easier and more comfortable
by using things that could be found in nature. For example, they
5 began using trees, such as **pine**, to make **timber** to build their
houses and the shelves, tables, and chairs to put inside them.
Humans also learned how to build ships, learned to watch the
tides, and found ways to avoid getting lost at sea in the **mist**.
Humans seemed to be masters of the Earth. However, with much of this
10 knowledge came great damage to the environment.

   Humans do much damage to Earth. For example, if people want to build a **dam** to
make electricity, this usually results in large areas of land being covered with water. If they
want to use land for farms, they first have to cut down large areas of forest. They do this
ignoring the risk that falling mud and rocks bring whenever there are **quakes** or floods.
15 These dangers arise because the roots of trees help hold the soil together. Then what used to
be beautiful mountains quickly become **muddy** piles of rock.

   It is difficult to **forecast** how long our forests and jungles will last, so we need to
breed a new attitude of **environmental** concern. Many countries have already made a good
start by asking their people to **recycle**. This is an important part of any effort to protect the
20 environment. Remember, later generations may also enjoy walking along a nature **trail** or
looking at the **tulips** in full bloom.

Vocabulary (mp3)

breed: [brid] *v* 培育	**pine**: [paɪn] *n* 松樹
chilly: [ˋtʃɪlɪ] *adj* 寒冷的	**quake**: [kwek] *n* 地震 (= earthquake)
dam: [dæm] *n* 水壩	**recycle**: [riˋsaɪk̩l] *v* 回收利用
environmental: [ɪn͵vaɪrənˋmɛnt̩l] *adj* 環境的	**tide**: [taɪd] *n* 潮汐
forecast: [ˋfor͵kæst] *v* 預測	**timber**: [ˋtɪmbɚ] *n* 木材
limb: [lɪm] *n* 樹枝	**trail**: [trel] *n* （山間田野踩踏出的）小徑
mist: [mɪst] *n* 霧	**tulip**: [ˋtjuləp] *n* 鬱金香
muddy: [ˋmʌdɪ] *adj* 泥濘的	

Reading Comprehension   *Choose the correct answers.*

Inference

1. What is one of the results of people building a dam to make electricity?
   - (A) It creates too many fish.
   - (B) It makes piles of rock.
   - (C) It creates too much mist.
   - (D) It floods nearby areas.

Supporting Idea

2. How does the passage suggest we stop damaging the environment?
   - (A) Stop building houses.
   - (B) Recycle more.
   - (C) Make fewer dams.
   - (D) Plant more trees.

Detailed Information

3. What is causing so much mud and rock to fall from mountains?
   - (A) People are building more homes on the mountains.
   - (B) Mountains are being flooded by water from dams.
   - (C) There are no more trees to hold the soil together.
   - (D) Rising tides are running up onto the mountains.

CLOZE Passage   *Put the letters for the correct words in the blanks.*

What are we doing to our world? Large areas of forest have been cut down for ___1___. Because of the damage done to our environment, it is hard to imagine what our future will be like. Whenever there is a flood, villages as well as large cities are damaged by the water. Of course we complain about such things, but it seems that we should also stop and think about the ___2___ damage we have done to our planet. One of the most important things we can do is learn to better understand nature. That is why so many science teachers take their students for walks along ___3___. In the United States, more and more people are spending their vacation enjoying a fire in a little cabin on a(n) ___4___ night. If people spend more time with nature, then they might also want to ___5___ their garbage in an effort to save our planet. The world is a beautiful place.

| (A) trails | (B) breed | (C) recycle | (D) chilly |
| (E) forecast | (F) timber | (G) pine | (H) environmental |

1. _____   2. _____   3. _____   4. _____   5. _____

Reading Passage 2

19.1 *Our Responsibility to Nature*

Humans have always depended upon animals such as fish, birds, and deer for food. They have also used the skin and **fur** of animals to make clothes and as **protection** from the weather. For a time, the Earth was home to only a few million humans, and the
5 animals were *plentiful* enough for people to use without causing stress to the environment. After humans developed **agriculture**, their **primitive** way of life changed greatly. It allowed for all their food to be grown in one place. Chickens were kept for their meat and to lay eggs. Most eggs were eaten but some were left to **hatch** and
10 provide more chickens to the village. Bee **hives** were built so that their honey could be collected. Villages next to the ocean could catch fish or **lobsters** for food. There was **plenty** of food for everyone.

Finally, the villages became large cities, and humans became separate from nature. In larger towns and cities, **fleas** caused disease and killed many people. People began to kill
15 bears for their **paws** to make medicine, elephants for their **valuable ivory**, and birds for their beautiful **feathers**. As cities grew in size and science developed, these differences between humans and nature grew deeper. Factories were built and **polluted** many rivers.

Humans became **shortsighted** about the importance of nature in their lives. They thought that they and nature were separate. Now *pollution* is a big problem everywhere in
20 the world. Hopefully, humans will wake up from their bad dream and use their wonderful minds and technology to be more *protective* toward the environment.

Vocabulary

agriculture: [ˈægrɪˌkʌltʃɚ] *n* 農業	**plenty**: [ˈplɛntɪ] *n* 足夠
feather: [ˈfɛðɚ] *n* 羽毛	*plentiful*: [ˈplɛntɪfəl] *adj* 充足的
flea: [fli] *n* 跳蚤	**pollute**: [pəˈlut] *v* 污染、弄髒
fur: [fɝ] *n* (獸類的) 軟毛	*pollution*: [pəˈluʃən] *n* 污染
hatch: [hætʃ] *v* 孵	**primitive**: [ˈprɪmətɪv] *adj* 原始的
hive: [haɪv] *n* 蜂巢	**protection**: [prəˈtɛkʃən] *n* 保護
ivory: [ˈaɪvrɪ] *n* 象牙	*protective*: [prəˈtɛktɪv] *adj* 關切保護的
lobster: [ˈlɑbstɚ] *n* 龍蝦	**shortsighted**: [ˈʃɔrtˈsaɪtɪd] *adj* 目光短淺的
paw: [pɔ] *n* 腳掌	**valuable**: [ˈvæljəbl̩] *adj* 貴重的

Reading Comprehension — *Choose the correct answers.*

Main Idea

1. What is the main idea of the passage?

    (A) How animals have depended on humans.

    (B) The ways that people use different animals.

    (C) Animals that should be raised only on farms.

    (D) The relationship between humans and animals.

Inference

2. It was easier to get to animals when living in the villages because _____.

    (A) animals could be raised in the villages

    (B) animals were attracted to local villages

    (C) villages were near where animals lived

    (D) roads were built where animals lived

Matching — *Put the letters for the correct words in the blanks.*

Words	Sentences	Answer
A. protection	1. Many years ago, people used ink and pens made of __(n)__ to write letters.	_____
B. hatch	2. Smoke from the factory __(v)__ the air.	_____
C. paw	3. The jacket provided the boy with __(n)__ from the wind.	_____
D. plenty	4. That hen found a warm, safe place to __(v)__ her eggs.	_____
E. feathers	5. The bear's __(n)__ helps keep it warm in winter.	_____
F. lobster	6. Bees live and make their honey in a(n) __(n)__.	_____
G. polluted	7. There is __(n)__ of room in the car if you need a ride.	_____
H. fur	8. Max studied __(n)__ because he wanted to be a farmer.	_____
I. agriculture	9. This watch from my father is too __(adj)__ to give away.	_____
J. flea	10. I was bitten by a(n) __(n)__, and now my skin is red and it hurts.	_____
K. hive		
L. valuable		