



Asignatura	Inglés.	Docente	Sandra J. González M.	Jornada	Mañana.
Correo Docente	sandra.gonzalez@iedtecnicointernacional.edu.co			Curso	803 - 804

1

TOPIC: Human Actions and the Environment.

OBJECTIVE: Identify attributes, talents, skills and good practices with the environment.

ACTIVITIES

1. Label the photos with words from the Word Bank.

Work Bank: air pollution – deforestation – illegal mining – water pollution.



A



B



C



D

1 C I come from Xingtai in China. Unfortunately there are so many factories here and they cause really bad air pollution. It's horrible; when I go outside I wear a mask. I want to do something to change this!

2 ___ Here in the Magdalena region of Colombia we have major environmental problems thanks to ___ for gold and carbon. This practice devastates the biodiversity of our rivers and forests. It's time we put a stop to this practice.

3 ___ I am Brazilian and I am really worried about the rate of ___ of our Amazon rainforest. Large cattle farmers and mining are the principal causes. My friends and I are trying to think of ideas to solve the problem.

4 ___ We come from Argentina where you can find the Matanza-Riachuelo River. It is also called the 'Killer' river. This is because it is one of the ten rivers with the most ___ in the world. We have to stop local factories from dumping waste into the river.

3

2. Complete the comments in exercise 1 with the words from the Word Bank and match them to the correct photo.

3. What would you do to help the environment in your area? Make full sentences with *would like to* or *wouldn't like to* about each idea.

- No, I wouldn't like to sort rubbish at a recycling centre. (sort rubbish at a recycling centre)
- _____ (participate in a demonstration)
- _____ (organize a petition)
- _____ (volunteer at a community garden)
- _____ (help plant trees in a park in your community)



4. Complete the sentences with prepositions from the box.

- We are worried about the levels of contamination.
- He is interested _____ saving the Andean spectacled bear.
- They are concerned _____ erosion.
- She is good _____ taking photos.

5. Read and complete paragraphs 1-3 with the correct form of the verbs in brackets. Then match with photos A-C.

1. Pablo is really interested in ¹conserving (conserve) the natural habitat of the Andean condors. He loves ²_____ (be) in nature and is really good at ³_____ (organize) tree planting days with his friends. ____

2. Sara enjoys ⁴_____ (meditate) in the forest, but she is concerned about illegal mining in the area. She would like to ⁵_____ (start) an educational campaign about the negative impacts of mining. ____

3. Andrés and Tina like ⁶_____ (swim) in their local river, but they are worried about the water pollution from local factories. They are interested in ⁷_____ (create) an online magazine about sustainability. ____



6. Match 1-6 with A-F to make complete sentences.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. When communities of organisms share mutual needs and benefits, _____ | A. we refer to this as deforestation. |
| 2. When there are a variety of different organisms living in the same area, _____ | B. it is considered symbiotic. |
| 3. When people cut down lots of trees, _____ | C. the biodiversity is healthy. |
| 4. When an animal lives in its natural habitat, _____ | D. it is sustainable. |
| 5. When an ecosystem is capable of supporting itself, _____ | E. they are in an ecosystem. |
| 6. When everything is connected and interdependent, _____ | F. it lives in its natural environment. |



Colombia is the second most biodiverse country in the world, after Brazil. This is because of the variety of different ecosystems like tropical forests, mountain habitats, grasslands, páramos, and deserts. Amphibians, birds and plants are just some of the species that make up a large part of Colombia's biodiversity. In fact, Colombia is known for having more bird species than any other country, with more than 1900 species.

Now for the sad news; Colombia is facing a major ecological problem because of illegal logging, the agricultural industry, the mining industry, cocaine production and the development of hydro-electricity energy resources. Deforestation costs the country 2,000 km of forest each year and this figure is rising. The areas with the highest deforestation rates include Caquetá in the Amazon region and Antioquia in the

Andes mountains, while there have been major rises in deforestation in Putumayo and Norte de Santander in the past few years.

Deforestation has many negative effects on the environment, including habitat loss, a decrease in biodiversity, the extinction of animal and plant species, soil erosion, air pollution. There are many others, too. Today, almost one-third of Colombia's original forest has been destroyed by deforestation, so as you can imagine, this is a serious problem and urgent action is required. It is a problem that affects us all, so please, educate yourselves and take action now. Who knows, tomorrow might be too late!



7. Read the article and complete the table. Write full sentences.

1. Area (where?)	3. Causes (why?)
<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
2. Problem (what?)	4. Impact of the problem (how?)
<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>

8. You are worried about the deforestation in Colombia. Write a letter to the Colombian government to express your concern.

Dear Mr President,

I enjoy _____ in our forests, but I am
(an activity you do in forests) _____ the deforestation here in Colombia.

I am writing to you because I _____ ask you to
stop the logging of our forests and start _____
(an action to stop the problem) _____
Deforestation is very bad for our environment because it causes
_____.

Urgent action is needed.

Yours sincerely,

(your name)



9. Choose the correct option.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1. Which is not an action to combat environmental problems?</p> <p>a. volunteer to plant trees
b. organize and sign a petition
c. dump waste into rivers
d. take part in a demonstration</p> <p>2. What environmental problem isn't caused by the agriculture industry?</p> <p>a. soil pollution c. illegal mining
b. deforestation d. water pollution</p> <p>3. Choose the correct sentence.</p> <p>a. I am concerned in soil erosion.
b. I am concerned at soil erosion.
c. I am concerned to soil erosion.
d. I am concerned about soil erosion.</p> <p>4. I am good at ____ trees.</p> <p>a. plant c. planted
b. planting d. plants</p> <p>5. Which industry extracts metals?</p> <p>a. agriculture c. mining
b. cars d. factories</p> | <p>6. We are interested ____ an environmental website.</p> <p>a. in starting c. in start
b. to start d. about starting</p> <p>7. The natural environment where a species lives.</p> <p>a. habitat c. sustainable
b. biodiversity d. symbiotic</p> <p>8. The journalist would like ____ research into deforestation.</p> <p>a. doing b. to do c. did d. have done</p> <p>9. Roberto is interested ____ signing the petition.</p> <p>a. at b. about c. in d. to</p> <p>10. She wouldn't like to ____ in a polluted river.</p> <p>a. swims c. swimming
b. swam d. swim</p> |
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		Very well	Quite well	With difficulty
Vocabulary	I can understand vocabulary related to human actions and impact on the environment.			
Grammar	I can use adjective-preposition collocations to talk about human actions.			
Reading	I can understand texts related to environmental problems and human actions.			
Writing	I can write about environmental problems and human actions.			
Listening	I can understand audio material related to environmental problems and human actions.			
Speaking	I can speak about environmental impacts and human actions.			