

**New  
Internationalist**

# Help nature!

New Internationalist Easier English Ready  
Lesson: Pre-Intermediate level

# **This lesson:**

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- **Speaking**
- **Quiz**
- **Reading / gap-fill**
- **Vocabulary**
- **Organising and ordering words**
- **Making protest banners**



**What problems can you see?  
How can we help?**



# Quiz

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- 1. There were 2000 Indian tigers in 1970 – how many are there now?**  
a) 3000                      b) 2000                      c) 1000
- 2. How many years have humans lived on Earth?**  
a) 3,000,000                      b) 300,000                      c) 30,000
- 3. When was the extinction of dinosaurs?**  
a) 650 million years ago                      b) 65 million years ago  
c) 6.5 million years ago

## Now find the correct answers here:

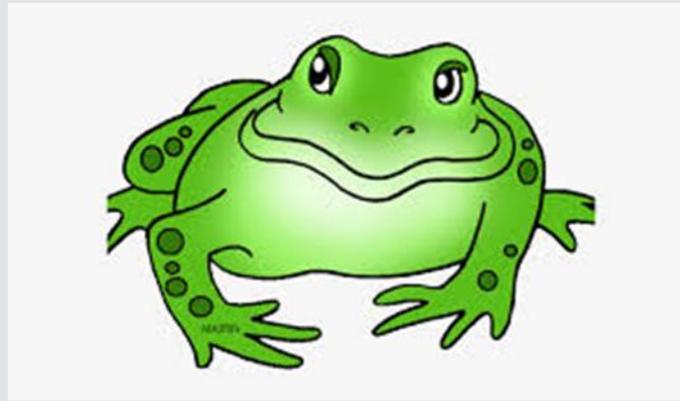
*India's tiger numbers were fewer than 2,000 in 1970 and now up to about 3,000 as a result of a big conservation effort.*

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**We homo sapiens have lived only 300,000 years on the planet. And the dinosaurs were gone 65 million years ago. Extinction is the beginning of a bigger global problem. There are many more of the animals that humans eat. But wildlife is undergoing, what conservationists are calling, a biological collapse. In the short time between 1970 and 2016 the global population of wild mammals, birds, fish, amphibians, and reptiles fell by an amazing 68 per cent.**

**Match:**

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1. extinction

2. conservation

3. collapse

4. wildlife

5. mammals

6. amphibians

7. reptiles

a) cats, cows and camels

b) frogs and toads

c) snakes, turtles and lizards

d) when the last of a species dies

e) looking after the natural world so it can continue

f) the animals that naturally live in an area

g) a breakdown, destroying everything



# Match:



1. extinction d
  2. conservation e
  3. collapse g
  4. wildlife f
  5. mammals a
  6. amphibians b
  7. reptiles c
- a) cats, cows and camels  
b) frogs and toads  
c) snakes, turtles and lizards  
d) when the last of a species dies  
e) looking after the natural world so it can continue  
f) the animals that naturally live in an area  
g) a breakdown, destroying everything



# Fill the gaps with these words:

## extinct / million / change / extinction /

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We think the number of all species facing extinction is one ....**a**..... Scientists say the extinction threat is as urgent as climate ....**b**..... and in a way worse because we cannot change .....**c**..... When a species is gone, it's gone for ever. With it goes all its evolutionary adaptation to its living conditions, over millions of years, and all its interactions with its ecosystem. Species are closely connected to their ecosystem and so the extinction of one species can start more extinctions, making nature poorer and poorer.

Extinction, by itself, is not new – it has happened since life began on Earth. But now it is faster. The fossil record suggests that maybe a vertebrate species goes .....**d**..... in one to three million years. Today the average expected lifespan is only 5,000 years. Plant extinction is 500 times faster than we expect naturally.

Which are **problems** and which are **solutions**?:  
(you can use a dictionary if you need to / the word stress is underlined)

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a) biodiversity

b) conservation

c) drought

d) big agriculture  
businesses

e) ecosystem

f) climate change

g) adaptation

h) extinction

i) high temperatures

j) mining

g) indigenous people

# What can we do?

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## PROBLEMS:

- climate change
- extinction
- drought
- high temperatures
- big agriculture businesses
- mining

## SOLUTIONS:

- biodiversity
- adaptation
- ecosystem
- indigenous people

# Conservation problems: match

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1. Elephants in the Congo rainforest

2. Insect-eating birds in the Amazon

3. Many animals and plants cannot survive in hot temperatures

4. About 40% of the Amazon rainforest is becoming grassland

a) so they need to move to higher land very quickly

b) because of drought (no rain).

c) have difficulties finding fruit because of less rain.

d) are dying because the heat is killing the insects they need.

# What can we do?

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1. Elephants in the Congo rain-forest
2. Insect-eating birds in the Amazon
3. Many animals and plants cannot survive in hot temperatures
4. About 40% of the Amazon rainforest is becoming grassland

**have difficulties finding fruit because of less rain.**

**are dying because the heat is killing the insects they need.**

**so they need to move to higher land very quickly.**

**because of drought (no rain).**

**Make protest banners by ordering these words:**

a) trees cutting stop !

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b) elephants the protect !

c) less meat eat ! less farming for use land!

d) destroying nature stop mines for !



**Practise saying these – organise a protest!**

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**Stop cutting trees!**

**Protect the elephants!**

**Eat less meat! Use less land for farming!**

**Stop destroying nature for mines!**

**Now read this Easier English article and  
find ideas for 2 more protest banners:**

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[https://eewiki.newint.org/index.php?title=The\\_case\\_for\\_nature](https://eewiki.newint.org/index.php?title=The_case_for_nature)

