

Nature's gifts

UNIT

Set the scene

For a long time, human beings have been changing the way that nature has been billions of years in the making. Our nights used to be dark, but artificial light disrupts the rhythm of bright days and dark nights. Animals used to enjoy their free ride in their habitat, but now they are driven away from their home, kept in enclosures, or captured in large numbers. We need to remember that the harmonious coexistence between humans and nature leads to the path of green and sustainable development, not only for the whole world, but for the individuals as well.

Learning objectives

Upon completion of this unit, you will be able to:

- discuss the impacts of human activity on the environment and animals;
- use the problem-solution pattern properly when discussing an issue in writing;
- develop an in-depth understanding of the significance of protecting the environment and nature.



How can you fail to catch fish if you drain the pond? But there will be no fish the next year. How can you fail to catch animals if you burn the forest to hunt for them? But there will be no animals the next year.

— *Lü's Commentaries of History*



Reading 1

Let there be dark P173

Reading 2

For this big fish, there's no place like home
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Unit project

Protecting nature P187

Get ready to read



Video clip

NEW WORDS

Tennessee 田纳西州

firefly *n.* 萤火虫

migrate *vi.* 迁移

twinkling *n.* 闪烁

symphony *n.* 交响乐

swarm *n.* 大群 (蜜蜂等昆虫)

synchronous *a.* 同时的

entomologist *n.* 昆虫学家

prime *a.* 最好的

mating *n.* 交配

glow *n.* 光亮

Watch for information

Have you ever seen the twinkling of fireflies on a summer evening? Watch a video clip about a magnificent sight of a certain kind of fireflies. Then decide whether the statements are true (T) or false (F).

- ___ 1. Every year, at Christmas time, the forest in Tennessee is lit up by fireflies.
- ___ 2. What is special about these fireflies is that they gather in swarms and flash all at once.
- ___ 3. The prime habitat for the synchronous fireflies is a campground in the eastern hemisphere.
- ___ 4. A male firefly flashes to get a date. A female firefly may respond with a glow if she is interested in the male firefly.
- ___ 5. Children are allowed to bring mason jars to the campground and catch some fireflies so that they can watch them overnight.
- ___ 6. The light produced by fireflies can last only for a few days because adult fireflies live short lives.

Watch and discuss

Some of you might have a memory of a summer's night lit up by fireflies. Unfortunately, the number of fireflies has been on the decrease due to habitat loss, pesticide, and light pollution. Work in groups to discuss how the life of animals has been influenced by human activity. Give specific examples to illustrate your point.

Let there

- 1 When I was a child, I knew real darkness.
- 2 At my family's **cabin** on a Minnesota lake, I knew woods so dark that my hands disappeared before my eyes. I knew night skies in which **meteors** left **smoky trails** across **sugary** spreads of stars¹. But now, when eight of ten children born in the United States will never know a sky dark enough for the Milky Way, I worry we are rapidly losing night's natural darkness before realizing its worth. This **winter solstice**, as we cheer the days' gradual movement back toward light, let us also remember the **irreplaceable** value of darkness.
- 3 All life evolved to the steady **rhythm** of bright days and dark nights. Today, though, when we feel the closeness of **nightfall**, we reach quickly for a light switch. And too little darkness, meaning too much **artificial** light at night, spells trouble² for all.
- 4 Already the World Health Organization identified working the **night shift** as a **probable** cause of cancer and the American Medical Association has voiced its support for "light pollution **reduction** efforts at both the national and state levels." Our bodies need darkness to produce the **hormone melatonin**, which keeps certain cancers from developing, and our bodies need darkness for sleep. Sleep **disorders** have been linked to **diabetes**, **obesity**, heart disease and depression, and recent research suggests one main cause of "short sleep" is "long light." Whether we work at night or simply take our smartphones to bed, there isn't a place for this much artificial light in our lives.
- 5 The rest of the world depends on darkness as well, including certain species of birds, insects, and fish. Some examples are well known — the 400 species of birds that **migrate** at night in North America, the **sea turtles** that come on shore to lay their eggs — and some are not, such as the bats that save American farmers billions in **pest** control. Light pollution is like the **bulldozer** of the night, wrecking **habitat** and **disrupting ecosystems** which are several billion years in the making. Simply put, without darkness, Earth's ecosystems would **collapse**.
- 6 Darkness shapes our lives in less dramatic ways as well. Consider how it brings us

be
dark

Notes

- 1 The phrase "sugary spreads of stars" means "stars which are spread across the Milky Way like tiny particles of sugar."
 - 2 The word "spell" in "spell trouble" means "have sth. as a result." It is often followed by nouns like "disaster" and "danger."
e.g. *The lack of rain for seven months could spell disaster for the farmers.*
-



Notes

3 In the expressions “addressing light pollution” and “address the problem,” “address” is used as a verb, meaning “think about a problem or a situation and decide how you are going to deal with it.”
e.g. *Our products address the needs of real users.*

together with those we love, how we **illuminate** our most **intimate** experiences with **flame** or moonlight. What would a winter evening’s stroll through the park be without it? Or a candlelight dinner? It’s only with night’s natural darkness that we appreciate the lights of the city and of the season. No one thinks much of these lights at noon.

- 7 In today’s crowded, louder, more fast-paced world, night’s darkness can provide **solitude** and quietness, qualities increasingly in short supply. Darkness has always been considered **invaluable** for a **soulful** life, and the chance to witness the universe in the dark has inspired artists and philosophers since time began. In a world flooded with artificial light, how would Vincent van Gogh have given the world his *Starry Night*? Who knows what this vision of the night sky might inspire in each of us, in our children or grandchildren?
- 8 Yet all over the world, our nights are getting brighter. In the United States and Western Europe, the amount of light in the sky increases an average of about six percent every year. Computer images of the United States at night, based on NASA photographs, show that what was a very dark country in the 1950s is now nearly covered with a **blanket** of light. Much of this light is wasted energy, which means wasted dollars. Those of us over 35 are perhaps among the last generation to have known truly dark nights. Even the lake where I was lucky to spend my summers during my childhood has seen its darkness **diminish**.
- 9 It doesn’t have to be this way. Light pollution is readily within our ability to solve, by using new lighting technologies and turning off existing lights. Already, many cities and towns across North America and Europe are changing to LED streetlights, which offer dramatic possibilities for controlling wasted light. Other communities are finding success by simply turning off some of their public lighting after midnight. Even Paris, the “city of light,” which already turns off its **monument** lighting after 1 a.m., will this summer start to require its shops, offices, and public buildings to turn off lights after 2 a.m. Though primarily designed to save energy, such reductions in the amount of light will also go far in addressing light pollution³. But we will never truly address the problem³ of light pollution until we become aware of the irreplaceable value and beauty of the darkness we are losing.
- 10 This winter solstice, this longest night of the year, let us begin.

Read and understand

Global understanding

Read the passage and match each part with its corresponding topic.

Part 1 (Paras. 1-2)	A Darkness is invaluable for our intimate experiences, a soulful life, and inspirations.
Part 2 (Paras. 3-5)	B The problem of light pollution is within our ability to solve.
Part 3 (Paras. 6-7)	C My childhood experiences make me realize that we are rapidly losing natural darkness.
Part 4 (Para. 8)	D Too much artificial light at night damages our health and the ecosystems.
Part 5 (Paras. 9-10)	E All over the world, our nights are getting brighter.

Detailed understanding

Read the passage again and decide whether the statements are true (T) or false (F).

- ___ 1. The author now lives in a lakeside house in Minnesota.
- ___ 2. Life on Earth developed because of the alternation of day and night.
- ___ 3. If people have to work the night shift, they would be more likely to develop cancer.
- ___ 4. In the present society, solitude and quietness are becoming rare.
- ___ 5. Vincent van Gogh showed artists the irreplaceable value of darkness in his *Starry Night*.
- ___ 6. The technologies designed to reduce light waste cannot be applied to reducing light pollution.

LED



Read and think

A case for darkness

Step 1 The author makes a strong argument for conserving natural darkness. Go through the passage and list the writing devices he applies in making his appeal.

Step 2 Work in pairs to discuss the effects these writing devices are likely to have on the readers.

Ways to reduce light pollution

Step 1 In the passage, the author praises efforts to reduce light pollution, like changing streetlights to LED lights and turning off public lighting after midnight. Work in groups to discuss other possible ways to address the problem of light pollution.

Step 2 Based on your discussions and the ways mentioned by the author, work in groups to make suggestions on how to improve the lighting systems in your dorm, your teaching buildings, and around the campus to cut costs and reduce light pollution.

Read and practice

Synonyms

Replace the italicized parts in the sentences with words from the passage. Change the form if necessary.

1. Fathers have their *unique* role to play in their children's development.
2. By *dusk* all the team members should have achieved their objectives.
3. Due to the accident, it seems *likely* that the election will be put off till November.
4. Widening the road will destroy grassland and damage the *natural home* of wildlife.
5. Later that night, we were brought to a room dimly *lit up* by the soft glow of a bedside lamp.
6. Although they didn't live in the same city, Elissa and Joanna remained *close* friends throughout their lives.

Language in use

Complete the sentences by translating the Chinese in brackets into English.

1. It seems that _____ (食物可能会供应不足) until the strike is over.
2. Their carelessness in operating the machines can _____ (给我们所有人带来麻烦).
3. Some governments _____ (在处理全球变暖问题上至今行动迟缓).
4. After the position was advertised, the office _____ (接到了大量的应聘申请).
5. A lot of institutions _____ (已经表达了对环境安全问题的关切).
6. _____ (电子纸的形成历经多年), and is now closer than ever to changing the way we read, write, and study.

Sentence structure

Rewrite the sentences without changing the original meaning. Some words are given in brackets as prompts.

Example: I knew real darkness. I was a child at that time. (when)

► When I was a child, I knew real darkness. / I knew real darkness when I was a child.

1. Everything had happened so fast. He was barely able to absorb all the information. (so ... that)
2. If you need medical advice in the home, we can help. If you need practical support in the home, we can also help. (whether ... or ...)

3. Now they were driving by a house. Andy had described it to them last week. (which)
4. Lift your legs slightly against the force of gravity (重力). Hold them for at least 10 seconds. (v.-ing)
5. No one at the hotel seemed to know what the cost of a telephone call should be. Mr. Doblin complained about it. (that)
6. Two weeks after finishing this painting, the artist left Paris. The anthropologist knew it. (what)

Banked cloze

Complete the passage with suitable words from the word bank. You may not use any of the words more than once.

artificial	collapse	courses	designed	disorders
disrupt	ecosystem	evolved	light	reduction
rhythm	risk	species	starry	threats

Life on Earth has evolved in cycles of light and darkness. The 1) _____ of light and darkness drives the vital processes of many 2) _____. Light carries information about the opportunities afforded by and the 3) _____ posed by the environment. It is therefore not surprising that organisms have 4) _____ to adapt to light changes and make the most efficient use of them. A number of species need the darkness of the night for survival. The night is a realm full of life.

The natural darkness is nowadays at 5) _____ in many parts of the world, due to poorly 6) _____ outdoor lighting systems. Photons (光子) spilled from strong and inadequately shielded streetlights travel long distances across the atmosphere and 7) _____ up places that were not intended to be lighted. Artificial light at night has been shown to 8) _____ biological processes of individuals, species, communities, and the whole 9) _____. It also has serious consequences for culture: Some aspects of the intangible heritage of humanity are lost, for example, the contemplation of the 10) _____ sky.

Read and translate

Translate the paragraph into English.

湿地为地球三大生态系统之一，为 20% 的生物物种提供了生存环境，具有不可替代的生态作用。湿地是世界上重要的候鸟栖息地，是一些濒危的鸟类物种生息繁衍之所。我国是世界上湿地和生物多样性最丰富的国家之一。我国政府通过建立湿地自然保护区，对保护全国乃至全球生物多样性、气候安全和公民的健康作出了积极贡献。

Read and write

Use the problem-solution pattern in writing

The problem-solution pattern is a common structure to organize a piece of writing. It reflects one's thinking through an analysis of a problem and its possible solutions.

A problem-solution passage usually begins with an introduction, or a context for the problem to be introduced. The introduction can be a fact, a story, a personal experience, or a brief statement of the problem.

A full description of the problem is given after the introduction. The causes of the problem are analyzed, and the effects it brings are discussed.

Sometimes, to stress the severity or gravity of the problem and to call for action, the problem is framed in the form of questions. For example:

- What would happen without it?
- Should we still be using it since we know it has so many harmful effects?

After a diagnosis and analysis of the problem, the writer proposes specific solutions which are workable (so that the solutions will be adopted by people concerned). They can be real-life solutions that have worked well, or suggested solutions for future work. The writer often evaluates the solutions with argumentative and evaluative statements.

- Step 1** What is the problem discussed in "Let there be dark"? Read Paras. 1-2 of the passage again and discuss how the author introduces the problem. Is it a fact, a story, a personal experience, or a brief statement of the problem? Can you think of other ways to introduce it?
- Step 2** Read Paras. 3-8 of the passage and note down the causes and effects of the problem. Discuss in pairs how questions are used to stress the severity of the problem.
- Step 3** Read the last part of the passage and classify the solutions proposed by the author. Do you think that they are workable? Are the solutions evaluated?
- Step 4** Brainstorm some environmental problems. Write a passage of no less than 120 words to analyze a problem, and offer specific solutions that you have tried, or that you think will be effective.

Get ready to read



Audio clip

NEW WORDS

hatch *v.* (使)(蛋) 孵化

alevin *n.* 小鲑鱼

fry *n.* 鱼苗

nest *n.* 窝; 穴

scale *n.* (鱼、蛇等的) 鳞

blend in 融入...; (与)...融为一体

smolt *n.* 初次入海的小鲑鱼

spawn *v.* (鱼或蛙) 大量产卵

dam *n.* 水坝

fertilize *vt.* 使受精; 使受孕

Listen for information

Listen to a passage about the life cycle of a salmon. Match the salmon's life stages in Column A with its characteristics in Column B.

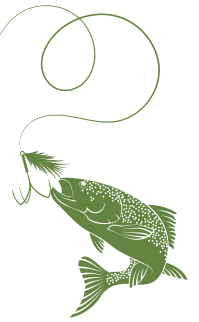
Column A	Column B
1. Egg	A Being attached to the yolk for food and nutrient
2. Alevin	B Living in schools in the ocean
3. Fry	C Developing a special design of scales to blend in
4. Parr	D Going on little adventures away from its nest
5. Smolt	E Laying and fertilizing eggs
6. Adult	F Standing in a safe little spot all winter
7. Spawning adult	G Losing the pattern on its scales and becoming silver to blend in the surroundings

Listen and discuss

Work in groups to discuss the possible dangers that the salmon are faced with in their life. Is there any other animal whose life cycle you know a little about? If so, share it with your group members.



For this big fish, there's no place like home



- 1 Search “salmon crossing the road” on the Internet and you’ll find dozens of videos of me and my pals skittering across wet streets and highways like windup toys on a mission. Cars slow and stop to let us cross, water spraying from our flicking tails as we navigate this long journey and flop back into the river on the other side¹.
- 2 The videos capture me after I’ve been away at sea for up to five years, navigating thousands of miles. To guide me on this journey, I use my unique inner GPS (which taps into the Earth’s magnetic field) to get me closer to my birthplace. Then I begin to sniff out the specific river where I was born. I head home to lay eggs and, alas, usually to die — possibly after crossing a road or two.
- 3 When your local fish merchant or waiter distinguishes me as “wild,” you should know that it is not a very strict category. Of the eight living species of me, seven live in the Pacific. Pacific salmon are more closely tied to West Coast rainbow trout than to Atlantic salmon, while the Atlantic salmon is actually more closely related to a trout from the Northeast than to a salmon from the Pacific.
- 4 More to the point, I am so exquisitely adjusted to the very river I was born in that my size, my shape, and maybe even how I taste are specific to — and determined by — that place. If I’m born far up the Yukon River, for example, I will grow much larger and fatter than a salmon born in a small stream a mile away. After all, I will need enough strength and fat to swim home against² the Yukon’s strong current and lay my eggs in its rocky bottom. And fishermen know this, preferring to catch me precisely at the Yukon’s mouth, when my fat stores — the silky, rich Omega-3 that makes me delicious for eating and good for the heart — are in the best condition for a long swim up the river.
- 5 I’ve been a North American staple forever, in large part because of these unusual spawning habits. I’m the size of an ocean-grown fish, yet my return to local rivers has allowed fishermen to catch me without bothering

Notes

- 1 Here “the other side” refers to the other side of the wet streets and highways.
 - 2 Here “against” means “in the opposite direction to the flow (of the Yukon River).”
-



to head out to sea the way³ they have to for cod and tuna. Such accessibility has backfired against me: While my Atlantic pals were once native to almost every coastal river northeast of the Hudson, they are now found in just eight lonely rivers in Maine, and thus protected. Word to the wise⁴: If you see “wild Atlantic salmon” on a menu in North America, you’re getting illegal fish, or false information.

- 6 Even as they’ve become endangered in the wild, Atlantic salmon have however thrived in open-ocean net pens⁵, giving me an advantage in the fish-farming business. Tuna and cod, by contrast, have been successfully farmed only recently and with difficulty. As a result, I’ve become the second-most-popular seafood in the United States, with 70 percent of the salmon that Americans eat coming from the farms along sheltered coasts.
- 7 That easy, relatively inexpensive abundance is a blessing for diners and cooks. My fattiness makes me moist even if you overcook me — that’s why you see me at restaurants, weddings, and your neighbor’s dinner party. Few fish lend themselves to such a variety of ways of cooking: I can be eaten smoked, roasted and grilled. And of course, I’m excellent raw⁶.
- 8 On that last point, an unusual fish story: The Japanese considered eating raw salmon to be unacceptable until the 1990s. That’s when Norwegians, trying to find a way to sell their surplus of farmed salmon, persuaded Japanese consumers to incorporate my raw flesh into their sushi-eating customs. That’s right: Your salmon-avocado roll is in fact the product of a smart marketing campaign of Scandinavia.
- 9 Developments like this have done wonders for my popularity, but with unintended consequences. Some farmers looking to cut corners give me too many antibiotics that tend to leave me with environmental toxins.
- 10 There’s another risk I should mention. It’s to the Pacific wild salmon. In 2017, about 300,000 Atlantic salmon escaped their pen in Washington State’s Puget Sound. This caused concern that my Atlantic version might overtake my Pacific version, endangering my already fragile oceangoing population. When in 2018 a fisherman caught a live Atlantic salmon in Washington’s Skagit River with a belly full of fish bones, the worry increased: Was my domesticated breed surviving out in the wild and threatening my wild population?
- 11 The risk led to Washington’s decision to phase out Atlantic salmon farming by 2022. That’s an important measure in my book. I’d like to stay wild, and take a joyride⁷ on the open road, for as long as I can.

Notes

- 3 The expression “the way” is short for “in the way,” which means “using a method to do or achieve sth.”
- 4 The phrase “word to the wise” emphasizes a statement as advice. It is a shortening of the phrase “a word to the wise is sufficient,” meaning “a wise or intelligent person can take a hint and does not need a long explanation.” In the passage, “the wise” means “the wise consumers.”
- 5 Here “open-ocean net pens” refers to areas enclosed by nets in the open sea for farming the salmon.
- 6 “I’m excellent raw” means “I taste excellent when I am eaten raw.”
- 7 Here “take a joyride” means “swim for pleasure.”

Read and understand

Global understanding

Read the passage and work in pairs to complete the information card of salmon.

The salmon

Journey:

Guide:

Destination:

Category:

Size, shape, and taste:

Spawning habit:

Reasons for popularity:

Ways to be cooked and eaten:

Risks in life:

Detailed understanding

Read the passage again and choose the best answer to the questions.

1. Where does the salmon lay its eggs?
 - A. In the Pacific.
 - B. In the Atlantic.
 - C. Somewhere along the journey.
 - D. In the river where it was born.
2. Which of the following is true of the relationship between the salmon and the trout?
 - A. The Atlantic salmon is similar to the Pacific trout.
 - B. The rainbow trout is closely tied to the Atlantic salmon.
 - C. The Northwest trout is more closely related to the West Coast salmon.
 - D. The Atlantic salmon is more closely related to the Northeast trout.

3. Which of the following determines the taste of a salmon?
 - A. Its size.
 - B. Its birthplace.
 - C. The length of its journey.
 - D. The way it is farmed.
4. At which point is a salmon at its best for eating and for the heart?
 - A. When it is ready to swim up the Yukon River.
 - B. When it is far up the Yukon River.
 - C. Before it has stored enough strength and fat.
 - D. When it is digging a nest for eggs in the river's bottom.
5. Which of the following fish is most unlikely to appear in a North American restaurant?
 - A. The wild Atlantic salmon.
 - B. The wild cod.
 - C. The wild tuna.
 - D. The wild Pacific salmon.
6. Why did Washington decide to stop the farming of the Atlantic salmon?
 - A. Because it wanted to decrease the population of the wild Atlantic salmon.
 - B. Because it wanted to stop the use of antibiotics in salmon and protect the environment.
 - C. Because farmed Atlantic salmon were threatening the existence of the wild salmon.
 - D. Because too many fishermen were catching the salmon alive in the Skagit River.

Read and think

Use of the first-person singular

- Step** 1 The passage is written in the first person "I." Work in groups to discuss why the author writes the passage this way and what kind of effect is expected.
- Step** 2 Now write your own passage modeled on the text to describe a cute animal that you like using the first-person singular.

Animal or fish farming vs. wild population conservation

According to the passage, in order to protect the wild salmon, Washington decided to phase out Atlantic salmon farming by 2022. Do you think there is a conflict between animal or fish farming and wild population conservation? Do we need to choose between them? Why or why not?

Read and practice

Synonyms

Replace the italicized parts in the sentences with words or expressions from the passage. Change the form if necessary.

1. For their wedding anniversary, the couple had a *beautifully and delicately* prepared meal at the restaurant.
2. Animals can help to fight crime, and the police have trained dogs to *smell out* drugs.
3. Because of a series of conflicts, the relations between the two countries are *weak and uncertain*.
4. For the sake of the patients' health, the hospital will *gradually stop using* five of its outdoor smoking areas.
5. These plants are evergreen and they do not like too much water, so they *grow well* in the desert.
6. After an exhausting day, he *sat down heavily* on the chair and almost passed out.

Meaning in context

Choose the best answer from the four choices marked A, B, C, and D to complete the sentences.

1. The rainforest-themed products _____ into consumer interest in the environment.
A. tape B. tap C. step D. pat
2. The annual conference is held to discuss issues _____ to senior citizens.
A. particular B. characteristic C. special D. specific
3. A _____ in disguise is something that seems to be bad or unlucky at first, but which you later realize is good or lucky.
A. blessing B. preparation C. fate D. chance
4. Their team played better in the second half but couldn't _____ the other team and lost by eight points.
A. pass B. reach C. overtake D. gain
5. The architect has _____ Egyptian and Chinese themes in the building's design.
A. cooperated B. incorporated C. adjusted D. adapted
6. Before she left the house, she _____ herself with the Parisian perfume.
A. scattered B. sprayed C. spread D. prayed
7. Our farmland is being _____ with destruction, and the consequences will be severe.
A. threatened B. endangered C. exposed D. risked
8. The lack of clean water and medicine in this area has caused wide _____.
A. care B. argument C. thought D. concern

Collocations

Complete the sentences with suitable prepositions.

1. More and more companies conduct their business _____ the Internet.
2. He will leave his family for a month _____ a mission to build better homes for the poor.
3. Although the chairman's speech was short, everybody agreed that it was _____ the point.
4. The car has been well maintained and it is still _____ excellent condition.
5. The team succeeded in designing the brilliant product _____ large part because of Larry's creative work.
6. Bear in mind that trying to cheat on others can easily backfire _____ you.
7. The Simpsons planted a garden of woodland plants that were native _____ the area.
8. Such abstract topics do not easily lend themselves _____ classroom discussion.

Read and translate



Additional
translation skills

Translate the following paragraph into Chinese.

Interestingly, though they mix into large populations at sea, each individual pink salmon typically returns to spawn in the river which is their birthplace. Thousands of individuals migrate to and reach the spawning grounds at the same time. Once they arrive, females lay their eggs in the river's rocky bottom. Pink salmon do not feed during the long trip to spawn, and the difficult task of swimming upriver against strong currents, jumping up rapids (湍流) and waterfalls, and digging nests is too much to survive. Within a few days after spawning, all individuals die. After they hatch, baby pink salmon slowly make their way to the ocean, where they feed until they reach maturity and begin the cycle again. The ritual has been going on for many millennia.



Design a poster

Protecting nature

Human life depends on nature. However, human beings have been asking too much of nature, because we take its air, water, etc. for granted. For this year's World Earth Day, to raise awareness of the importance of protecting our planet for future generations, the Student Union of your school has launched a campus campaign titled "Earth — Our Only Home." Each class will display a poster to appeal to everybody to take action to protect our planet.

Step Choose a focus

1

The class will be divided into five groups. Each group will focus on one of the following aspects of nature: the air, the water, the soil, the wild animals, and the plants.

Step Discuss problems and come up with solutions

2

Work in groups to brainstorm:

- how your aspect of nature suffers from the damage by human activity;
- how the lack of your aspect of nature or damage to it affects human beings;
- the possible solutions to the problems.

Step Come up with a slogan

3

Think of a slogan for your poster. Make it as persuasive and impressive as possible.

Tips: Creating a persuasive and impressive slogan

- **Highlight a key point:** Focus on one key point and integrate it into the slogan. A strong call to action may be involved.
- **Keep it short and simple:** Slogans should never be more than one sentence long and in many cases, a sentence fragment works best.
- **Make it poetic:** Think of your slogan as a line of poetry. A good rhythm and flow makes it more pleasing to the ear. Rhyming or repetition of similar-sounding words also makes your slogan much more recognizable and memorable.
- **Make it readable:** Avoid any unclear or confusing language in your slogan, and make sure that you use the active voice and correct grammar.

Step Design a poster

4

Design a poster based on your brainstorm and analysis in the previous steps. Add other essential elements like pictures and drawings to your poster.

Step Present your poster and vote for the best

5

Present your poster to the class. The class votes for the best poster to be displayed in the campaign.

Reading 1

New words

* **cabin** /'kæbɪn/ *n.* [C] (尤指建于林中或山上的) 小木屋

meteor /'mi:tɪə/ *n.* [C] 流星

* **smoky** /'sməʊki/ *a.*

having the appearance, smell, or taste of smoke 似烟的; 有烟熏味的

e.g. *Standing on the platform, we could see the smoky outline of the farther shore.*

* **trail** /treɪl/

n. [C] a long line or a series of marks that have been left by sb. / sth. 痕迹

e.g. *The wounded elephant left a trail of blood behind it.*

v. pull sth. behind you, esp. along the ground, or be pulled in this way 拖; 拉; 拖在后面

e.g. *A plane trailing a banner was circling overhead.*

* **sugary** /'ʃʊgəri/ *a.*

like sugar 糖状的; 粒状表面的

e.g. *Rhyolites (流纹岩) are rocks with a rather distinctive sugary texture or "feel."*

winter solstice /,wɪntə 'sɒlstɪs/ *n.* [C] 冬至

irreplaceable /,ɪrɪ'pleɪsəbl/ *a.*

too special, valuable, or unusual to be replaced by anything else (因太特别、贵重或少见而) 不可替代的, 独一无二的

e.g. *The works of art that were burned in the big fire are irreplaceable.*

* **rhythm** /'rɪðəm/ *n.* [C, U]

1) a regular pattern of changes 规则变化; 节律模式; 节奏

e.g. *Long journeys can disrupt your body's natural rhythm.*

2) a regular repeated pattern of sounds or movements 节律; 节拍; 节奏

e.g. *She started moving to the rhythm of the music.*

nightfall /'naɪt,fɔ:l/ *n.* [U]

the time when it begins to get dark in the evening 黄昏; 傍晚

e.g. *Don't worry, Michael. We'll all be back by nightfall.*

* **artificial** /,ɑ:tɪ'fɪʃl/ *a.*

not real or not made of natural things but made to

be like sth. that is real or natural 人造的; 人工的

e.g. *Energy is being wasted by using artificial lighting when daylight is adequate.*

night shift /'naɪt ʃɪft/ *n.* [C]

a period of time at night when people regularly work, esp. in a factory (尤指工厂的) 夜班

e.g. *She is on the night shift this week, but on the day shift next week.*

* **probable** /'prɒbəbl/ *a.*

likely to exist, happen, or be true 可能存在的; 可能发生的; 很可能的

e.g. *The probable result of global warming will be a rise in sea levels.*

* **reduction** /rɪ'dʌkʃn/ *n.* [C, U]

a decrease in the amount, size, or price of sth., or the act of decreasing sth. (数量、尺寸或价格的) 减少, 缩小, 下降

e.g. *The company promised they would make no staff reductions for at least two years.*

hormone /'hɔ:məʊn/ *n.* [C] 激素; 荷尔蒙

melatonin /,melə'təʊnɪn/ *n.* [U] 褪黑激素 (有时用作安眠药)

* **disorder** /dɪs'ɔ:də/ *n.* [C]

(medical) a mental or physical illness which prevents part of your body from working properly 失调; 紊乱; 障碍

e.g. *After weeks of tests they discovered that he had a rare disorder of the lung.*

* **diabetes** /,daɪə'bi:tɪz/ *n.* [U] 糖尿病

* **obesity** /əʊ'bi:səti/ *n.* [U]

a condition in which sb. is too fat in a way that is dangerous for their health 过度肥胖

e.g. *Obesity can lead to heart disorders and other health problems.*

* **migrate** /maɪ'greɪt/ *vi.*

(of birds, animals, etc.) travel regularly from one part of the world to another (鸟、兽等) 迁徙

e.g. *More than two million ducks migrate to the lake each fall.*

♦ **sea turtle** /'si:tɜ:tɪl/ *n.* [C] (AmE also **turtle**) 海龟

♦ **pest** /pest/ *n.* [C]

a small animal or insect that destroys crops or food supplies (毁坏庄稼或食物的) 有害小动物, 害虫

e.g. *I hope it won't be long before we can get rid of the pests altogether.*

bulldozer /'bʊl,dəʊzə/ *n.* [C] 推土机

* **habitat** /'hæbɪ,tæt/ *n.* [C, U]

the natural home of a plant or animal (动植物的) 生活环境; (动物的) 栖息地

e.g. *These measures will protect the habitat of endangered species such as wolves.*

* **disrupt** /dɪs'rʌpt/ *vt.*

prevent sth. from continuing in its usual way by causing problems 扰乱; 使混乱

e.g. *Climate change and extreme weather could seriously disrupt the agricultural economy.*

♦ **ecosystem** /'i:kəʊ,sɪstəm/ *n.* [C]

all the animals and plants in a particular area, and the way in which they are related to each other and to their environment 生态系统

e.g. *Many species of burrowing (掘洞的) insects are essential for maintaining a healthy soil ecosystem.*

* **collapse** /kə'ləps/ *vi.*

1) suddenly fail or become too weak to continue 突然失败; 垮掉; 崩溃

e.g. *The country's auto industry nearly collapsed due to increased foreign competition.*

2) fall down or fall in suddenly, often after breaking apart 倒塌; 塌下

e.g. *The roof collapsed under the weight of snow.*

♦ **illuminate** /ɪ'lu:mɪneɪt/ *vt.*

make a light shine on sth., or fill a place with light 照射; 照亮

e.g. *A small path was illuminated by orange lamps concealed in the flower beds.*

* **intimate** /'ɪntɪmət/ *a.*

1) private and friendly so that you feel comfortable 幽静舒适的; 温馨的

e.g. *The guests at the country club always enjoy its intimate atmosphere.*

2) having an extremely close friendship 亲密的; 密切的

e.g. *We're not on intimate terms with our neighbors.*

* **flame** /fleɪm/ *n.* [C, U]

hot bright burning gas that you see when sth. is on fire 火焰

e.g. *They sat around the campfire, watching the flickering (摇曳的) flames.*

♦ **solitude** /'sɒlə,tju:d/ *n.* [U]

the state of being completely alone, esp. when this

is pleasant or relaxing 独处

e.g. *He spent his free time in solitude, reading or walking in the hills.*

* **invaluable** /ɪn'veljʊəbl/ *a.*

extremely useful 极有价值的

e.g. *His experience of teaching in overseas schools proved invaluable.*

soulful /'səʊfl/ *a.*

expressing deep, usu. sad, emotions 深情的; 伤感的

e.g. *Jeanne was a romantic, mysterious young woman with soulful blue eyes and brown skin.*

* **starry** /'stɑ:ri/ *a.*

having many stars 布满星星的

e.g. *We had our dinner on the grassland underneath a starry sky.*

* **blanket** /'blæŋkɪt/ *n.*

1) [sing.] a thick covering or area of sth. 厚(的覆盖)层

e.g. *The valley was covered with a blanket of mist.*

2) [C] 毯子; 毛毯

♦ **diminish** /dɪ'mɪnɪʃ/ *v.*

become or make sth. become smaller or less (使)减小; (使)减少

e.g. *Her enthusiasm for knitting was by now fast diminishing.*

* **monument** /'mɒnjʊmənt/ *n.* [C]

a building, statue, or other large structure that is built to remind people of an important event or famous person 纪念碑; 纪念塔; 纪念馆

e.g. *These are the monuments to generations of individual farmers ploughing (犁) their fields.*

Phrases and expressions

in the making

in the process of becoming sth. or being made 在形成中; 在生产中

e.g. *His book was finally published. He said that it was 10 years in the making.*

simply put / to put it simply

used for saying that you are explaining sth. in a clear and simple way 简单地

e.g. *Anyway, simply put, we still owe them a large amount of money.*

in short supply

available only in small quantities, so that there is not enough 供应不足; 短缺

e.g. *Electricity and fresh water are in short supply on the island.*

Proper names

Minnesota /ˌmɪnɪ'səʊtə/ 明尼苏达州 (位于美国北部)

the Milky Way 银河

the World Health Organization 世界卫生组织

the American Medical Association 美国医学会

Vincent van Gogh /ˌvæn 'ɡɒf/ 文森特·凡·高 (荷兰画家)

NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) 美国国家航空航天局

Reading 2

New words

♦ **salmon** /'sæmən/ *n.* [C, U] (*pl.* **salmon**) 鲑鱼 (肉); 三文鱼 (肉); 大麻哈鱼 (肉)

pal /pæl/ *n.* [C]

(*informal.*) a close friend 密友; 好友

e.g. *Margherita and I have been pals since we were at primary school.*

skitter /'skɪtə/ *vi.*

(always + *ad.* / *prep.*) move very quickly and lightly, like a small animal (像小动物那样) 轻快地跑

e.g. *Shaking the snow off their hair and coats, the girls skittered up the stairs into the house.*

windup /'waɪndʌp/ *a.*

(*BrE wind-up*) (*only before noun*) relating to a machine or toy that you turn part of several times, in order to make it move or start working (机器或玩具) 装有发条的, 用手柄操作的

e.g. *Directly in front of him were two windup monkeys, one with a guitar and the other with a drum.*

* **spray** /spreɪ/

vi. (of liquid or small bits) quickly scatter through the air (液体或碎屑) 飞溅, 飞散

e.g. *The water sprayed from the hose (水龙头) and onto the grassland.*

vt. force liquid out of a container so that it comes out in a stream of very small drops and covers an area 喷; 喷洒

e.g. *Someone had sprayed blue paint over his car.*

flop /flɒp/ *vi.*

(always + *ad.* / *prep.*) fall or drop heavily 沉重地落下

e.g. *I finally got home and flopped down on the bed.*

* **magnetic** /mæɡ'netɪk/ *a.*

concerning or produced by magnetism 磁的; 磁性的

e.g. *Pigeons navigate less accurately when the Earth's magnetic field is disturbed.*

alas /ə'læs/ *ad.*

(*formal.*) used when mentioning a fact that you wish was not true 不幸地 (表示但愿并非如此)

e.g. *Donald, alas, died last winter, even though he had shown signs of recovery for a while.*

rainbow trout /'reɪnbəʊ 'traʊt/ *n.* [C, U] (*pl.*

rainbow trout or **rainbow trouts**) 虹鳟

♦ **exquisitely** /ɪk'skwɪzɪtli/ *ad.*

in a very beautiful and delicate way 精美地; 精致地

e.g. *She could not take her eyes away from the exquisitely charming portrait.*

* **rocky** /'rɒki/ *a.*

covered with rocks or made of rock 岩石覆盖的; 由岩石形成的

e.g. *The small village sits on a rocky hill overlooking the sea.*

Omega-3 /,əʊmɪgə 'θri:/ *n.* [U] 奥米伽3 (一组多元不饱和脂肪酸)

* **staple** /'steɪpl/ *n.* [C]

a food that is needed and used all the time 基本食物; 主食

e.g. *The aid workers are distributing corn, milk, vegetables, and other staples.*

spawn /spɔ:n/

v. produce eggs in large quantities at the same time (鱼或蛙) 大量产卵

e.g. *The salmon swim upstream to spawn in late summer or fall.*

vt. make a series of things happen or start to exist
使大量出现；使大量生产；酿成

e.g. *New technology has spawned new business opportunities.*

cod /kɒd/ *n.* [C, U] (*pl.* **cod**) 鳕鱼 (肉)

backfire /ˌbækˈfaɪə/ *vi.*

(of a plan or action) have the opposite effect to the one you intended (计划或行动) 发生意外, 产生事与愿违的结果

e.g. *The company's new policy backfired when a number of employees threatened to quit.*

* **coastal** /ˈkəʊstl/ *a.*

(*only before noun*) in the sea or on the land near the coast 近海的；沿海的；海岸的

e.g. *This kind of fish is found worldwide in tropical oceans, at the edge of coastal waters and in the open sea.*

* **thrive** /θraɪv/ *vi.*

become very strong and healthy or very successful
茁壮成长；兴旺；欣欣向荣

e.g. *It is still unclear whether these companies will continue to thrive in the future.*

* **abundance** /əˈbʌndəns/ *n.* [U, sing]

a large quantity of sth. 充裕；丰富

e.g. *One quality that the team possessed in abundance was fighting spirit.*

* **blessing** /ˈblesɪŋ/ *n.* [C]

sth. that improves your life, helps you in some way, or makes you happy 幸事；幸运；福气

e.g. *This modern medical equipment allows patients to live a more normal life, which is a real blessing.*

* **diner** /ˈdaɪnə/ *n.* [C] (餐厅的) 用餐者

fattiness /ˈfætɪnəs/ *n.* [U]

the state of containing a lot of fat 富含脂肪

e.g. *With much protein but little fattiness, beef is the healthy food sought by many people.*

* **moist** /mɔɪst/ *a.*

slightly wet, esp. in a way that is pleasant or suitable 潮湿的；湿润的

e.g. *This fruit cake will keep moist for several days if it is stored in the refrigerator.*

overcook /ˌəʊvəˈkʊk/ *vt.*

cook food for too long 将 (食物) 煮得过熟

e.g. *A customer complained that the vegetables were overcooked.*

Norwegian /nɔːˈwɪdʒ(ə)n/ *n.* [C] 挪威人

* **surplus** /ˈsɜːpləs/ *n.* [C, U]

an amount of sth. that is more than what is needed or used 剩余；过剩；剩余额；多余的量

e.g. *This country produces more oil than it needs and sells the surplus to the rest of the world.*

♦ **incorporate** /ɪnˈkɔːpəreɪt/ *vt.*

include sth. as part of a group, system, plan, etc. 把 (某事物) 并入, 包含

e.g. *We've incorporated many environmentally friendly features into the design of the building.*

* **flesh** /fleʃ/ *n.* [U] (人或动物的) 肉

sushi /ˈsuːʃi/ *n.* [U] 寿司

avocado /ˌævəˈkɑːdəʊ/ *n.* [C] (*BrE also avocado pear*) (*pl.* **avocados**) 鳄梨；牛油果

* **marketing** /ˈmɑːkɪtɪŋ/ *n.* [U]

the activity of deciding how to advertise a product, what price to charge for it, etc., or the type of job in which you do this 促销；营销；销售

e.g. *The reason their cars sold so well was that they had a brilliant marketing strategy.*

♦ **antibiotic** /ˌæntɪbaɪˈɒtɪk/ *n.* [C, usu. pl.] 抗生素

toxin /ˈtɒksɪn/ *n.* [C] 毒素 (尤指细菌产生的致病物质)

* **overtake** /ˌəʊvəˈteɪk/ *v.* (*overtook, overtaken*)

develop or increase more quickly than sb. / sth. else and become more successful, more important, or more advanced than them (发展或增长) 超越, 超过
e.g. *Television soon overtook the cinema as the most popular form of entertainment.*

♦ **fragile** /ˈfrædʒaɪl/ *a.*

weak or uncertain, and likely to become worse under pressure 脆弱的

e.g. *This area has a range of fragile ecosystems and rare plants.*

domesticated /dəˈmestɪˌkeɪtɪd/ *a.*

(of animals or plants) brought or kept under control or cultivation (动物或植物) 驯化的

e.g. *A domesticated animal, accustomed to being fed by hand, may not be able to live without man.*

* **breed** /brɪːd/

n. [C] a type of animal that is kept as a pet or on a farm (宠物或牲畜的) 品种

e.g. *What breed of dog is that? I've never seen one like it before.*

vi. (of animals) mate in order to have babies (动物) 繁殖

e.g. *Many animals breed only at certain times of the year.*

★ **threaten** /'θreɪn/ *vt.*

1) be likely to harm or destroy sth. 威胁到; 危及

e.g. *By August, it was clear that the volcano could threaten the whole island.*

2) say that you will cause sb. harm or trouble if they do not do what you want 威胁; 恐吓

e.g. *Postal workers are threatening a strike if they don't receive a pay increase.*

joyride /'dʒɔɪraɪd/ *n.* [C]

an act of driving around for enjoyment in a car, esp. one that was taken without permission and is driven in a dangerous manner 驾车兜风 (尤指偷来别人汽车进行危险驾驶)

e.g. *A police spokesman said the incident appeared to have been a joyride.*

Phrases and expressions

tap into

make use of a source of energy, knowledge, etc. that already exists 利用, 发掘, 开发 (已有的能源、知识等)

e.g. *She hopes that additional sources of educational funding can be tapped into to help the poor children.*

to the point

dealing only with the important subject or idea, and not including any unnecessary discussions 简明恰当的; 简洁中肯的

e.g. *Her comments on the current issues were brief and to the point.*

in large part / measure

(*fm.*) mostly 基本上; 在很大程度上

e.g. *Their success was due in large part to their ability to speak Spanish.*

lend oneself to sth.

be suitable for being used in a particular way 适用于某事物

e.g. *None of his books really lends itself to being made into a film.*

cut corners

save time, money, or energy by doing things quickly and not as carefully as you should (为了节约时间、金钱或精力而) 马虎从事

e.g. *There's a temptation to cut corners when you're pushed for time, but it's not worth it.*

phase out

gradually stop using or providing sth. 逐步停止使用 (提供)

e.g. *It is highly probable that the subsidy for car manufactures is to be phased out next year.*

in my book

(*spoken*) said when giving your opinion 依我看; 在我看来

e.g. *Well, in my book, if you steal, you deserve to get caught.*

Proper names

GPS (Global Positioning System) 全球 (卫星) 定位系统

Yukon / River /'ju:kɒn/ 育空河 (北美洲主要河流之一, 流经加拿大和美国)

the Hudson / (Hudson River) /'hʌd(ə)n/ 哈得孙河 (主要位于美国纽约州内)

Maine /meɪn/ 缅因州 (位于美国东北部)

Scandinavia /,skændrɪ'neɪviə/ 斯堪的纳维亚 (欧洲西北部文化区, 包括挪威、瑞典和丹麦, 有时也包括冰岛、芬兰和法罗群岛)

Puget / Sound /'pju:dʒɪt/ 皮吉特湾 (位于美国华盛顿州)

Skagit / River /'skædʒɪt/ 斯卡吉特河 (位于北美洲, 流经加拿大和美国)