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TOPIC 01 / 18

# 01 Environment and ecosystems

Nature, climate, farming and the pressures people put on the planet.

48 WORDS

- [ ] **agricultural** ADJ
relating to farming
*The region relies on* **agricultural** *exports.*

- [ ] **agriculture** N
the science and practice of farming
**Agriculture** *uses about 70 per cent of the world's fresh water.*

- [ ] **biodiversity** N
the variety of plant and animal life in an area
*Coral reefs have exceptionally high* **biodiversity**.

- [ ] **carbon** N
a chemical element found in all living things
*Trees absorb* **carbon** *from the air.*

- [ ] **climate** N
the usual weather conditions of a place
*The* **climate** *here is mild and wet.*

- [ ] **conservation** N
the protection of nature and natural resources
*Local people play a key role in wildlife* **conservation**.

- [ ] **crops** N
plants grown in large amounts for food
*Frost destroyed most of the autumn* **crops**.

- [ ] **cultivate** V
to prepare land and grow crops on it
*Farmers began to* **cultivate** *the hillsides.*

- [ ] **damage** N/V
harm that makes something less useful or valuable
*Flooding caused severe* **damage** *to the crops.*

- [ ] **destruction** N
damage so severe that something no longer exists
*The* **destruction** *of wetlands has accelerated.*

- [ ] **drought** N
a long period with very little rain
*The* **drought** *left the reservoirs almost empty.*

- [ ] **ecosystem** N
all the living things in an area and how they depend on each other
*Removing one predator can upset an entire* **ecosystem**.

- [ ] **emissions** N
gases or other substances released into the air
*Factory* **emissions** *have fallen since the new rules began.*

- [ ] **endangered** ADJ
at risk of disappearing from the wild
*The* **endangered** *tiger now survives in only a few reserves.*

- [ ] **environment** N
the natural world, including land, water, air and living things
*Plastic waste is a serious danger to the marine* **environment**.

- [ ] **environmental** ADJ
relating to the natural world and its protection
*The company publishes an* **environmental** *report every year.*

- [ ] **extinction** N
the complete disappearance of a species
*Hunting drove the dodo to* **extinction** *within a century.*

- [ ] **floods** N
large amounts of water covering dry land
*Heavy rain caused* **floods** *across the region.*

- [ ] **global** ADJ
affecting the whole world
*Climate change is a* **global** *problem.*

- [ ] **habitat** N
the natural home of a plant or animal
*Draining the marshes destroyed the* **habitat** *of many birds.*

- [ ] **harvest** N
the gathering of crops when they are ripe
*A poor* **harvest** *pushed up food prices.*

- [ ] **hectare** N
a unit of land equal to 10,000 square metres
*A single* **hectare** *of forest can store tonnes of carbon.*

- [ ] **indigenous** ADJ
originally belonging to a particular place
**Indigenous** *peoples have managed these forests for centuries.*

- [ ] **isolated** ADJ
far away from other places or things
**Isolated** *populations often develop unusual traits.*

- [ ] **landscape** N
the scenery of an area of land
*Wind farms have changed the* **landscape** *of the valley.*


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- [ ] **logging** N
  the cutting down of trees for wood
  *Illegal* **logging** *has shrunk the rainforest.*

- [ ] **natural** ADJ
  existing in nature, not made by people
  **Natural** *gas burns more cleanly than coal.*

- [ ] **nutrients** N
  substances that plants and animals need to grow
  *Fertiliser adds* **nutrients** *to poor soil.*

- [ ] **organic** ADJ
  produced without artificial chemicals
  **Organic** *vegetables are usually more expensive.*

- [ ] **plantation** N
  a large farm growing one crop
  *The old forest was replaced by a rubber* **plantation**.

- [ ] **pollution** N
  harmful substances in the air, water or soil
  *River* **pollution** *has killed most of the fish.*

- [ ] **preserve** V
  to keep something in its original or good condition
  *The park was created to* **preserve** *the ancient woodland.*

- [ ] **protect** V
  to keep something safe from harm
  *Mangrove forests* **protect** *the coast from storms.*

- [ ] **remote** ADJ
  far from towns and other people
  *The research station is in a* **remote** *part of Antarctica.*

- [ ] **resources** N
  useful materials or supplies found in nature
  *Oil and gas are limited natural* **resources**.

- [ ] **restore** V
  to bring something back to its former condition
  *Volunteers are working to* **restore** *the damaged dunes.*

- [ ] **rural** ADJ
  relating to the countryside
  *Many* **rural** *villages have lost their schools.*

- [ ] **shore** N
  the land along the edge of the sea or a lake
  *Oil washed up on the* **shore**.

- [ ] **species** N
  a group of animals or plants of the same kind
  *Scientists find new* **species** *in the deep ocean every year.*

- [ ] **sustainability** N
  the ability to continue without harming the environment
  *The hotel's* **sustainability** *policy covers water and energy use.*

- [ ] **sustainable** ADJ
  able to continue without damaging the environment
  *Farmers are switching to more* **sustainable** *methods.*

- [ ] **temperature** N
  how hot or cold something is
  *Average* **temperatures** *have risen by one degree.*

- [ ] **threat** N
  something that could cause harm
  *Invasive species are a* **threat** *to native birds.*

- [ ] **threatened** ADJ
  in danger of being harmed or lost
  *The reef is* **threatened** *by rising temperatures.*

- [ ] **tropical** ADJ
  from the hot, wet regions near the equator
  **Tropical** *storms are becoming more frequent.*

- [ ] **urban** ADJ
  relating to towns and cities
  **Urban** *populations are growing faster than rural ones.*

- [ ] **vast** ADJ
  extremely large
  *A* **vast** *area of grassland lies to the north.*

- [ ] **waste** N
  material that is no longer needed and thrown away
  *Food* **waste** *produces large amounts of methane.*


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TOPIC 02 / 18

# 02 Energy, materials and industry

Power, factories, raw materials and the machines that make modern life run.

38 WORDS

- [ ] **capacity** N
the largest amount something can hold or produce
*The dam has a **capacity** of two billion litres.*

- [ ] **cargo** N
goods carried by ship, plane or lorry
*The ship's **cargo** was mostly grain.*

- [ ] **concrete** N
a hard building material made from cement, sand and water
*The tower is made of reinforced **concrete**.*

- [ ] **consume** V
to use up energy, food or resources
*Data centres **consume** huge amounts of power.*

- [ ] **consumption** N
the amount of energy, food or goods that is used
*Household **consumption** of electricity fell last year.*

- [ ] **demand** N
the desire of buyers for a product
*Demand for solar panels has doubled.*

- [ ] **device** N
a small machine made for a purpose
*The **device** measures air quality.*

- [ ] **efficiency** N
the ability to work well without waste
*Insulation improves a building's energy **efficiency**.*

- [ ] **efficient** ADJ
working well without wasting time or energy
*LED bulbs are more **efficient** than old ones.*

- [ ] **electric** ADJ
worked by electricity
*Electric buses are quiet and produce no exhaust.*

- [ ] **energy** N
power from electricity, fuel or heat
*Solar panels turn sunlight into **energy**.*

- [ ] **engine** N
a machine that turns fuel into movement
*The car has a small, efficient **engine**.*

- [ ] **equipment** N
the tools and machines needed for a job
*Laboratory **equipment** is very expensive.*

- [ ] **extract** V
to remove or take out
*Miners **extract** copper from deep underground.*

- [ ] **generate** V
to produce, especially electricity
*Wind turbines **generate** power even at night.*

- [ ] **industrial** ADJ
relating to industry and factories
*Industrial waste was dumped in the harbour.*

- [ ] **industry** N
the making of goods, or one branch of the economy
*The tourism **industry** employs one in ten workers.*

- [ ] **install** V
to put equipment in place ready for use
*Many homes have **installed** solar panels.*

- [ ] **manufacturer** N
a company that makes goods
*The **manufacturer** recalled thousands of faulty heaters.*

- [ ] **manufacturing** N
the making of goods in factories
*Manufacturing has moved to countries with lower wages.*

- [ ] **mass** ADJ
involving large numbers of people or things
*Mass production made cars affordable.*

- [ ] **material** N
a substance used to make something
*Bamboo is a cheap, strong building **material**.*

- [ ] **mineral** N
a natural substance such as salt or coal
*The mountains are rich in **minerals**.*

- [ ] **operate** V
to work, or to make something work
*The plant **operates** day and night.*

- [ ] **process** N
a series of actions that produce a result
*The **process** of making paper uses a lot of water.*

- [ ] **produce** V
to make or grow something
*The region **produces** most of the country's coffee.*


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