



Environment and Conservation

Short-answer questions: the Eden Project | Cambridge IGCSE ESL 0510/0511

1. Lead-in discussion

Talk with a partner before you read.

1. Can an old industrial site become a place for nature?
2. What should visitors learn at an environmental attraction?
3. Why are plants important to human life?
4. Would you visit a giant indoor rainforest?

Exercise 1 at a glance

Read one factual text. Answers are in the text. Copy exact words and check the question carefully before choosing your answer.

2. Read for overall understanding

Read the text. How did the Eden Project transform an old quarry?

The Eden Project

The Eden Project is in Cornwall, in south-west England. It opened fully in 2001 on the site of a former china clay pit. Before the project, the area was a huge industrial hole in the ground. The aim was to turn this damaged landscape into a place where visitors could learn about plants, people and the environment.

The most famous parts of the Eden Project are its Biomes. These are huge covered structures that look like linked bubbles. Inside them, plants grow in carefully controlled conditions. The Rainforest Biome contains tropical plants, while the Mediterranean Biome includes plants from warmer dry regions of the world.

Creating the site was difficult. The pit had little soil, and rain could turn the ground into slippery clay. Builders and gardeners had to bring in growing material, shape the land and create conditions where plants could survive. The result showed that regeneration could be both practical and imaginative.

The Eden Project is not only a garden. It is also an educational charity. Visitors learn how plants provide food, medicine, materials and oxygen. Exhibitions and activities often focus on climate change, biodiversity and the choices people make in everyday life.

The site also supports the local economy by attracting visitors to Cornwall. However, like many major attractions, it must think about transport, energy use and its own environmental impact. Teaching sustainability is more convincing when the organisation also tries to reduce waste and use resources carefully.

The Eden Project is memorable because it combines science, design and storytelling. A visitor can walk from a Cornish outdoor garden into a tropical rainforest in a few minutes. The project turns an old industrial landscape into a reminder that damaged places can sometimes be repaired and given a new purpose.

The Biomes also help visitors compare different environments. In the Rainforest Biome, the air is warm and humid, and plants grow high above the paths. In the Mediterranean Biome, the atmosphere is drier and the planting shows crops and landscapes from places with warmer climates. Moving between these spaces helps visitors understand that plants depend on climate.

The project has also become a venue for music, community events and discussions about the future. This matters because environmental learning does not only happen through facts on signs. People may remember an idea more clearly if it is connected with an experience, a performance or a conversation.

For schools, the site can turn abstract topics such as biodiversity and climate into something students can see, smell and walk through.

3. Strategy focus

Follow the change

Some texts describe a place before and after a project. Check what changed and what stayed important.

4. Exam-style short-answer questions

Answer the questions using words from the text.

1. What was the site before the Eden Project? [1]

2. What do the Biomes look like? [1]

3. What could rain turn the ground into? [1]

4. What kind of organisation is the Eden Project besides a garden? [1]

5. What does the site support by attracting visitors to Cornwall? [1]

6. According to the text, what are three things plants provide? [3]

5. Vocabulary notebook

Underline five useful words or phrases. Check their meaning, then record them in your vocabulary notebook.

6. Follow-up tasks

1. Discussion: Should old industrial sites be reused for nature?

2. Summary: Summarise the Eden Project in about 50 words.

3. Creative task: Design an environmental visitor attraction.

4. Research: Find another regeneration project in Britain.

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2. Read for overall understanding

Suggested answer: It transformed a former china clay pit into a visitor attraction with huge Biomes, plants from different climates and education about people, plants and the environment.

4. Exam-style short-answer questions

1. a former china clay pit
2. linked bubbles
3. slippery clay
4. an educational charity
5. the local economy
6. Any three from: food; medicine; materials; oxygen.

Notes for checking

1. Answers should be short and clearly based on the text.
2. Accept bracketed or optional wording if the meaning is clear.
3. For the final question, learners need three separate details.