

Pacific Migration

Life on the Pacific island group of Tuvalu has never been easy. Two thirds of the 11,000 inhabitants depend on farming for all their income. However, there are no streams or rivers. Rainfall is the main source of fresh water. Lately, increasing global temperatures have made life in Tuvalu difficult. The weather is now unreliable: periods without rain last longer, cyclones are more frequent and seas have risen. The islands, at their highest point, lie only 15 feet above sea level, so flooding has become common. As sea water gets into the soil, it endangers crops such as taro, a vegetable which represents the islanders' basic food. "People are frightened", says Enele Sopoaga, who is Tuvalu's ambassador to the United Nations. Jerry Meehl, a climate scientist at the National Centre for Atmospheric Research in Boulder, Colorado, says the Pacific has been rising by a millimetre or two a year for a century – mainly because the water expands when its surface temperature rises. Meehl, who has visited Tuvalu, says the islanders' concern is justified, "a very high tide becomes more problematic now because more areas flood when the sea level is higher", he says, "and these effects will get worse over time". If the problems of the islands continue, a growing number of Tuvaluans may need to relocate – if anyone will have them. Every year 80 Tuvaluans are allowed to enter New Zealand. However, their stay is limited to a mere three years which will not solve the problem.

1. Answer the following questions according to the text but using your own words (2 points):

- a) What exactly are the sources of Tuvalu's problems?
- b) What has been done about these problems?

2. Do the following exercises according to the instructions given.

A. Fill in the blanks with a correct relative pronoun (1 point):

- a) I have a friend _____ brother has visited Tuvalu.
- b) I asked the woman _____ was standing at the door if she knew the time.

B. Change these sentences into the passive voice (1 point):

- c) Global temperatures have made life in Tuvalu difficult.
- d) They will find the money that was lost.

3. Give a synonym, a definition, or write a sentence showing that you understand the meanings for each word in ONE of the following sections (1 point):

- a) lately, unreliable, relocate, allowed.
- b) endanger, ambassador, effects, growing.

4. Summarise the text in no more than 40 words using as many of your own words as possible (2 points)

5. Write a composition of about 100-120 words on ONE of the following topics (3 points):

- a) What problems does the Earth face in the twenty-first century?
- b) Discuss/describe a sport or game you like.

Answers

Question 1:

- a) Rain is very important for them, as they have no rivers. But it doesn't rain often enough. Moreover, they have more cyclones now. And as the sea level has risen, they suffer floods which also harm the soil.
- b) Not much has been done. A climate scientist has investigated the sources of the problems. And New Zealand lets 80 inhabitants of the islands enter the country every year.

Question 2:

- a) whose
- b) who / that
- c) Life in Tuvalu has been made difficult by global temperatures.
- d) The money that was lost will be found.

Question 3:

- a) *lately* = recently; *unreliable* = can't be trusted; *relocate* = make people move; *allowed* = permitted.

Question 4:

There is a group of islands in the Pacific Ocean called Tuvalu, which is suffering the consequences of global warming. They receive less rain than before, have more cyclones and the sea level is rising, which causes floods.

Question 5:

This is a sample composition on option a).

What problems does the Earth face in the twenty-first century?

There are several problems that threaten our planet at present. And air pollution is probably the most obvious and important one, since all industrialised countries contribute to it with their factories, cars, planes, etc.

This pollution affects us directly as living beings, but also damages the ozone layer and is the cause of the global warming. Another important environmental issue is deforestation. Tropical forests are becoming smaller and smaller because their trees are being cut down for economic reasons. This affects temperatures and the quality of the air because trees attract the rain and purify the air we breathe. Thirdly, oil spills in seas and rivers contaminate water and kill lots of species, which, obviously, have a fatal effect on our lives.

These are the main problems the Earth faces in our century. And probably the threats will increase in number unless we do something to prevent it.