

Speed Reading Practice for Eiken Pre-1: No. 11

Total: 12 minutes (Passage 1: 4 min / Passage 2: 6 min / Review: 2 min)

Target Score...Passing Target: At least 5 out of 7 correct...High Score Target: At least 6 out of 7 correct

Read each passage and choose the best answer from among the four choices for each question.

Community Gardens in Cities

In many cities, small areas of unused land are being transformed into community gardens. These spaces allow local residents to grow vegetables, flowers, and other plants together. In some cases, the gardens are created on abandoned lots, while in others they are developed in parks, near schools, or beside apartment buildings. Supporters say that community gardens are valuable not only because they produce food, but also because they create opportunities for people to work together and improve their neighborhoods.

One reason these gardens attract attention is that they can strengthen local connections. Residents who might otherwise never meet may begin talking while planting, watering, or sharing tools. Children can also learn where food comes from and gain experience caring for living things. In addition, some people argue that community gardens make urban areas more pleasant by adding green space and bringing life to places that had been neglected.

However, community gardens are not always easy to maintain. They require regular care, and disagreements may arise over how the space should be used or who should be responsible for different tasks. There is also the question of long-term stability. In some cities, land used for gardens may later be sold for development, which means that the work of local residents can disappear if the land is needed for housing or business projects. For this reason, some critics argue that community gardens should not be seen as a simple answer to wider urban problems.

Because of these challenges, many specialists believe that community gardens are most successful when they are supported by local organizations and clear agreements among participants. In this way, they can contribute to healthier and more connected neighborhoods, though their value depends greatly on careful management and long-term planning.

Questions

- (1) What is one reason people support community gardens?
1. They allow cities to stop importing food from other regions.
 2. They help residents work together and improve local areas.
 3. They require very little time or effort from local people.
 4. They are mainly used to increase profits for businesses.
- (2) According to the passage, what is one possible benefit of community gardens for children?
1. They guarantee better school grades in science.
 2. They teach children how to sell vegetables in markets.
 3. They give children a chance to learn about food and caring for plants.
 4. They reduce the need for children to study environmental issues in class.
- (3) What is the author's main point in the final paragraph?
1. Community gardens are effective only when city governments fully control them.
 2. Community gardens can be helpful, but they need support and careful planning.
 3. Community gardens should replace parks in most cities.
 4. Community gardens are too unstable to be worth developing.

Artificial Light and Wildlife

Artificial light makes modern life possible in many ways. Streets, buildings, and public spaces can remain active after sunset, and electric lighting improves safety and convenience for many people. However, scientists have become increasingly interested in the effects of artificial light on wildlife. In natural environments, the daily cycle of light and darkness helps regulate the behavior of many animals. When this pattern is changed by human activity, some species may struggle to feed, move, or reproduce normally.

One well-known example involves sea turtles. In some coastal areas, baby turtles hatch at night and traditionally move toward the brightest horizon, which under natural conditions is usually the sea. But strong artificial lighting from hotels, roads, or houses can confuse them and lead them away from the water. Birds may also be affected. Some species that migrate at night can become disoriented by bright city lights, increasing the risk of collisions with buildings.

Because of problems like these, some cities and businesses are beginning to reconsider how outdoor lighting is used. Measures such as reducing unnecessary lighting, directing lights downward, and choosing less disruptive colors may help reduce harm to animals while still providing light for people. Supporters of these changes argue that better lighting design can protect wildlife without forcing human communities to give up the benefits of artificial light altogether.

Still, changing lighting systems is not always easy. It can cost money, and some people worry that reducing brightness may make streets or public areas feel less safe. Others point out that the effects of light pollution vary between species and environments, which means that no single solution will work everywhere. For this reason, many experts argue that artificial light should be managed more carefully, but in ways that take local conditions into account.

Questions

- (4) What problem does artificial light sometimes cause for wildlife?
1. It makes all animals depend on humans for food.
 2. It can disrupt natural patterns that guide animal behavior.
 3. It prevents any animals from being active at night.
 4. It causes plants to stop growing in coastal areas.
- (5) What happens to some baby sea turtles?
1. They move toward artificial lights instead of toward the sea.
 2. They avoid coastlines with no buildings.
 3. They hatch only in places where hotels are nearby.
 4. They become unable to swim because of bright light.
- (6) What is one way to reduce the effects of artificial light on wildlife?
1. Turn off all outdoor lights in cities after sunset.
 2. Replace artificial lights with fires or candles.
 3. Use lighting more carefully, such as by aiming it downward.
 4. Limit all human activity in coastal and urban areas.
- (7) What does the author suggest in the final paragraph?
1. Artificial lighting should be eliminated wherever wildlife is present.
 2. Local conditions must be considered when managing light pollution.
 3. Wildlife should be moved away from bright cities.
 4. Concerns about light pollution are less important than public safety.