

Botanic gardens 'best hope' for saving plants

29th September, 2017



Scientists say that many of the world's plants are in danger of dying out – of becoming extinct. Dr Paul Smith, from Botanic Gardens Conservation International, said one in five of the

world's plants is in danger of extinction. The world's botanic gardens contain about 100,000 species, including a third of all the world's plants. Botanic gardens help to protect around 40 per cent of endangered species of plants. They contain many of the rarest plants. Dr Smith said: "This is the first time that we have carried out a global assessment to look at the wide range of plants grown, managed and conserved in botanic gardens. For the first time we know what we have and, perhaps more importantly, what is missing from botanic gardens."

Researcher Dr Samuel Brockington said the world's botanic gardens were the best hope for saving the world's most endangered plants. He said: "Currently, an estimated one-fifth of plant diversity is under threat, yet there is no technical reason why any plant species should become extinct." Dr Brockington warned that if we do not protect endangered plants, people could have trouble finding food and fuel in the future. He said: "If we do not conserve our plant diversity, humanity will struggle to solve the global challenges of food and fuel security...and climate change." Most of the plants are in danger because of humans cutting down forests for farming and cities, and because of pests and climate change.

Sources: bbc.com / zmescience.com / mirrordaily.com

Writing

There will always be enough plants in the world for humans to survive. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

scientists / plants / botanic gardens / extinction / endangered / species / global / hope / diversity / technical / reason / extinct / solve / global challenges / farming

True / False

- Scientists said most of the world's plants are now extinct. T / F
- The article said one in five of the world's plants are safe from extinction. T / F
- Botanic gardens help to protect 40% of the world's endangered species. T / F
- A scientist does not know what is missing from botanic gardens. T / F
- A researcher said two-fifths of the world's plants are under threat. T / F
- A researcher said there is no technical reason why plants become extinct. T / F
- The researcher said we could struggle to find food and fuel. T / F
- The article says plants are under threat from pests. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| 1. dying out | a. lacking |
| 2. in danger | b. safeguard |
| 3. endangered | c. problems |
| 4. protect | d. at risk |
| 5. missing | e. variety |
| 6. hope | f. becoming extinct |
| 7. diversity | g. fight |
| 8. trouble | h. agriculture |
| 9. struggle | i. chance |
| 10. farming | j. threatened |

Discussion – Student A

- What do you think about what you read?
- How important are botanic gardens?
- What do you know and think about seed banks?
- How many of the world's plants could be endangered in 20 years?
- How can we protect endangered plants?
- When will humans stop cutting down trees?
- How would we survive in a world without plants?
- What questions would you like to ask the scientists?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| 1. many of the world's plants are in danger | a. down forests |
| 2. one in five of | b. and conserved |
| 3. They contain many of the | c. threat |
| 4. we have carried out a global | d. rarest plants |
| 5. plants grown, managed | e. and climate change |
| 6. an estimated one- | f. of dying out |
| 7. under | g. struggle |
| 8. humanity will | h. assessment |
| 9. in danger because of humans cutting | i. fifth of plant diversity |
| 10. because of pests | j. the world's plants |

Discussion – Student B

- What is your favourite plant?
- Why are the world's plants dying out?
- What would happen if plants became extinct?
- What do you think of botanic gardens?
- Why are plants so important?
- How can we protect endangered species?
- How green is your country?
- What do you think when a plant becomes extinct?

Spelling

- becoming tnციქტ
- 100,000 სესპიე
- all the world's გნედენადრ plants
- many of the ასრტერ plants
- carried out a global ეასეტსსნმ
- ნოვსეეკრდ in botanic gardens
- an ეიტადტმეს one-fifth
- plant ვრიისედტ is under threat
- no კლიეტცნაჰ reason
- უაიჰნტმ will struggle
- global ნსეეცგლალ
- ალეტცმ change

Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. d	3. j	4. b	5. a
6. i	7. e	8. c	9. g	10. h

Role Play

Role A – Bamboo

You think bamboo is the world's most important plant. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their plants. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): strawberry plants, palm trees or roses.

Role B – Strawberry plants

You think strawberry plants are the world's most important plants. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their plants. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): bamboo, palm trees or roses.

Role C – Palm trees

You think palm trees are the world's most important plants. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their plants. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): strawberry plants, bamboo or roses.

Role D – Roses

You think roses are the world's most important plants. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their plants. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): strawberry plants, palm trees or bamboo.

Speaking – Plants

Rank these with your partner. Put the best plants at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|--------------------|----------|
| • strawberry plant | • bamboo |
| • palm tree | • roses |
| • grass | • moss |
| • rice plant | • cactus |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	F	c	T	d	F	e	F	f	T	g	T	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.