

## Coronavirus pandemic leads to huge drop in air pollution

### True or False:

1. Air pollution has plummeted in the past 6 weeks.
2. There was a marked fall in oxygen levels.
3. The impact is also visible in Italy.
4. NO<sub>2</sub> levels in Milan have fallen by about 40 percent.
5. Researchers in New York have reported no change.
6. In NY carbon monoxide from cars has been reduced by 50 percent.
7. There has been a recorded drop in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions since measures to try to contain the virus began.
8. Experts have warned that levels will rise steeply again as the pandemic abates.

### Comprehension:

- a) Name the cities where a positive impact has been seen.
- b) How many people live in the Chinese city of Wuhan?
- c) When did Italy go into lockdown?
- d) Levels of which chemicals are predicted to rise steeply once more as the pandemic abates?

### Purpose:

What do you think is the main purpose of the article '**Coronavirus pandemic leads to huge drop in air pollution**'?

Use three examples from the text to explain your answer.

### Language:

Here are three examples of powerful language from the text. How do the following phrases make you feel? How do they help achieve the article's purpose?

- *Air pollution has plummeted in the past six weeks as entire countries hit by the Covid-19 outbreak were forced to hit the pause button on industry.*
- *-a silver lining amid a tragic crisis-*
- *"Are we looking at what we might see in the future if we can move to a low-carbon economy? Not to denigrate the loss of life, but this might give us some hope from something terrible. To see what can be achieved."*

GLOSSARY: <i>plummeted</i> – fallen   <i>inadvertently</i> – accidentally   <i>pandemic</i> – world-wide disease
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## ANSWERS

### True or False:

9. Air pollution has plummeted in the past 6 weeks. [T]
10. There was a marked fall in oxygen levels. [F]
11. The impact is also visible in Italy. [T]
12. NO<sub>2</sub> levels in Milan have fallen by about 40 percent. [T]
13. Researchers in New York have reported no change. [F]
14. In NY carbon monoxide from cars has been reduced by 50 percent. [T]
15. There has been a recorded drop in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions since measures to try to contain the virus began. [T]
16. Experts have warned that levels will rise steeply again as the pandemic abates. [T]

### Comprehension:

- e) Name the cities where a positive impact has been seen. [Wuhan, Milan, NY]
- f) How many people live in the Chinese city of Wuhan? [11 million]
- g) When did Italy go into lockdown? [9<sup>th</sup> March]
- h) Levels of which chemicals are predicted to rise steeply once more as the pandemic abates? [nitrogen dioxide and CO<sub>2</sub>]

## Thinking outside the box: how brands and governments are tackling trash

### True or False:

1. Across the world governments and brands are finally stepping up to tackle the estimated two billion tonnes of trash generated by humanity annually.
2. The demand for such legislation is driven not only by environmental groups, but also the government.
3. In 2015, Nielsen conducted a survey of 60,000 consumers in 30 countries.
4. 66% of millennials were willing to pay extra for sustainable goods.
5. Local authorities spend around £700 million a year in England on cleaning up streets.
6. For businesses making the sustainable choice, it won't mean increased costs for customers.
7. The Dutch want their economy to be fully circular by 2050.
8. Costa Rica aims to be free of single-use plastic in five years.

### Comprehension:

- a) Name two brands who are pledging to move towards more sustainable packaging.
- b) Name two alternative types of packaging to plastic.
- c) What does noissue do for every business placing an order?
- d) What is France doing to reduce waste?

### Purpose:

What do you think is the main purpose of the article **'Thinking outside the box: how brands and governments are tackling trash'**?

Use three examples from the text to explain your answer.

### Language:

Here are three examples of powerful language from the text. How do the following phrases make you feel? How do they help achieve the article's purpose?

- *Finally, a war that pacifists can get behind: the war on waste. Battle lines are still being drawn up – and some protagonists are going in harder than others – but across the world governments and brands are finally stepping up to tackle the estimated two billion tonnes of trash generated by humanity annually.*
- *“Consumers are voting with their wallets – choosing brands that value sustainability.”*
- *Though the exact details have yet to be thrashed out, according to Keep Britain Tidy the strategy has the potential to significantly reduce rubbish, which would save cash-strapped councils millions.*

GLOSSARY: *pacifists* – people who object to war | *legislation* – law | *protagonist* – character

## ANSWERS

### True or False:

1. Across the world governments and brands are finally stepping up to tackle the estimated two billion tonnes of trash generated by humanity annually. [T]
2. The demand for such legislation is driven not only by environmental groups, but also the government. [F]
3. In 2015, Nielsen conducted a survey of 60,000 consumers in 30 countries. [F]
4. 66% of millennials were willing to pay extra for sustainable goods. [T]
5. Local authorities spend around £700 million a year in England on cleaning up streets. [T]
6. For businesses making the sustainable choice, it won't mean increased costs for customers. [F]
7. The Dutch want their economy to be fully circular by 2050. [T]
8. Costa Rica aims to be free of single-use plastic in five years. [F]

### Comprehension:

- a) Name two brands who are pledging to move towards more sustainable packaging. [Danone, H&M, L'Oreal]
- b) Name two alternative types of packaging to plastic. [corn starch cellophane/biodegradable packaging, custom tissue paper]
- c) What does noissue do for every business placing an order? [plant a tree]
- d) What is France doing to reduce waste? [France has passed anti-trash legislation requiring companies to pay for the disposal of products they create; from electronic goods to cigarette butts]

## **New Study of 900 House Cats Finally Answers Age-Old Question About What Felines Do When They Go Outside**

### **True or False:**

1. The Cat Tracker Project is founded by researchers from the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences.
2. They tracked the movements and behaviour of nearly 3,000 cats.
3. They analysed data for 6 years.
4. Most cats moved very little, staying within 100m of their yard.
5. 7% of cats covered more than 30 acres.
6. Max, a tomcat from England, walked over a mile and back for no apparent reason.
7. The vast majority of cats were found to be 'universally lazy'.
8. Free-ranging domestic cats in the US alone kill up to 2 billion birds and 4 billion mammals each year.

### **Comprehension:**

- a) How many countries were studied?
- b) Who was the record setting cat? Why was she record setting?
- c) What are the 'Feline Five' traits?
- d) How did Nancy Brennan's 'Birds Be Safe' collar work?

### **Purpose:**

What do you think is the main purpose of the article **'New Study of 900 House Cats Finally Answers Age-Old Question About What Felines Do When They Go Outside'**?

Use three examples from the text to explain your answer.

### **Language:**

Here are three examples of powerful language from the text. How do the following phrases make you feel? How do they help achieve the article's purpose?

- *What mysterious antics they get up to when they're prowling around the great outdoors? And will we ever understand the inner mysteries of the noble cat mind?*
- *If you have an outdoor cat, reading some of these anecdotes might confirm something you've long suspected: that the inner machinations of a cat's mind are an unknowable enigma—a felicitous riddle whose answer they themselves might not possess.*
- *The study brought a flood of new traffic to Brennan's collar-selling site, which now distributes its bird-saving devices to cat parents all across the world—not to mention the stylish flair that the collars give their cats.*

GLOSSARY: <i>felicitous</i> – pleasing   <i>machinations</i> – workings   <i>skittishness</i> – lively/coy
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# ANSWERS

## True or False:

1. The Cat Tracker Project is founded by researchers from the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences. [T]
2. They tracked the movements and behaviour of nearly 3,000 cats. [F]
3. They analysed data for 6 years. [T]
4. Most cats moved very little, staying within 100m of their yard. [T]
5. 7% of cats covered more than 30 acres. [F]
6. Max, a tomcat from England, walked over a mile and back for no apparent reason. [T]
7. The vast majority of cats were found to be 'universally lazy'. [T].
8. Free-ranging domestic cats in the US alone kill up to 2 billion birds and 4 billion mammals each year. [F]

## Comprehension:

- a) How many countries were studied? [four]
- b) Who was the record setting cat? Why was she record setting? [The record-setter was Penny, a young female from the suburbs of Wellington, New Zealand, who roamed over the hills behind her house, covering an area greater than three square miles.]
- c) What are the 'Feline Five' traits? [Skittishness, Outgoingness, Spontaneity, Dominance and Friendliness]
- d) How did Nancy Brennan's 'Birds Be Safe' collar work? [it's a rainbow kitty collar. Its vibrant hues alerted nearby birds to the cat's presence, and shortly after, she was delighted to find that George had stopped killing birds.]