WORLD DAY TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION & DROUGHT

http://www.eslHolidayLessons.com/06/day_to_combat_desertification_and_drought.html

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ALL ANSWERS ARE IN THE TEXT ON PAGE 2.
THE READING / TAPESCRPT

One of the most pressing problems facing our world today is the advance of deserts and the droughts this causes. June 17 is officially the World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought. It was created by the United Nations to draw attention to the seriousness of farmland and forests lost to deserts. The UN General Assembly drew up the “Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa”. This long-titled initiative hopes to reverse desertification. To do this, agencies must educate poorer nations about the dangers of land degradation. Such education is one way to help reduce poverty and encourage sustainable development.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said in a speech that “land degradation affects a significant portion of the Earth’s arable lands, directly impacting the well-being of people and economic development of countries”. He added that: “As the population grows, and with it the demand for agriculture production, traditional systems of managing the land are collapsing.” Mr. Ban said the UN must work harder to reduce poverty and protect dry lands. He told the world: “The time has come for the international community to recognize that dry land, where nearly half of the world’s poor live, is not waste land. Rather, they are potential areas for agricultural intensification for both food and energy needs.”
PHRASE MATCH

Match the following phrases from the article.

Paragraph 1

1. One of the most pressing
   a. about the dangers
2. farmland and forests
   b. up the Convention
3. The UN General Assembly drew
   c. reduce poverty
4. reverse
   d. problems facing our world
5. educate poorer nations
   e. lost to deserts
6. education is one way to help
   f. desertification

Paragraph 2

1. a significant
   a. being of people
2. directly impacting the well-
   b. poor live
3. traditional systems of
   c. portion
4. the UN must work harder
   d. needs
5. where nearly half of the world’s
   e. to reduce poverty
6. food and energy
   f. managing the land
LISTENING GAP FILL

One of ______________ problems facing our world today is the advance of deserts and the droughts this causes. June 17 is officially the World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought. It ________________ United Nations to draw attention to the seriousness of farmland and _________________. The UN General Assembly drew up the “Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa”. This ________________ hopes to reverse desertification. To do this, agencies must educate ________________ the dangers of land degradation. Such education is one way to help reduce poverty and encourage _________________.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon ________________ that “land degradation affects a significant portion of the Earth’s arable lands, ________________ well-being of people and economic development of countries”. He added that: “As the population grows, ________________ for agriculture production, traditional systems of managing the land are collapsing.” Mr. Ban said the UN must ________________ poverty and protect dry lands. He told the world: “The time has come for the international community to ________________, where nearly half of the world’s poor live, is not waste land. Rather, they are potential areas for agricultural intensification ________________ needs.”
WHILE READING / LISTENING GAP FILL

Put the words into the gaps in the text.

One of the most ________ problems facing our world today is the advance of deserts and the droughts this _________. June 17 is officially the World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought. It was created by the United Nations to ________ attention to the seriousness of farmland and forests lost to deserts. The UN General Assembly ________ up the “Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa”. This long-________ initiative hopes to ________ desertification. To do this, agencies must educate poorer ________ about the dangers of land degradation. Such education is one way to help reduce ________ and encourage sustainable development.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said in a ________ that “land degradation affects a significant ________ of the Earth’s arable lands, directly impacting the well-being of people and ________ development of countries”. He added that: “As the population ________, and with it the demand for agriculture production, traditional systems of managing the ________ are collapsing.” Mr. Ban said the UN must work harder to reduce poverty and protect dry lands. He told the world: “The ________ has come for the international community to recognize that dry land, where nearly half of the world’s poor live, is not ________ land. Rather, they are potential areas for agricultural intensification for both food and energy ________.”
CHOOSE THE CORRECT WORD
Delete the wrong word in each of the pairs of *italics*.

One of the most *pressing / ironing* problems facing our world today is
the advance of deserts and the droughts this *effects / causes*. June 17
is officially the World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought. It
was created by the United Nations to *sketch / draw* attention to the
seriousness of farmland and forests lost to deserts. The UN General
Assembly drew *up / down* the “Convention to Combat Desertification in
Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification,
Particularly in Africa”. This long-titled *initiative / invitation* hopes to
reverse desertification. To do this, agencies must *educate / education*
poorer *nation / nations* about the dangers of land degradation. Such
education is one way to help *reduction / reduce* poverty and encourage
sustainable development.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said in a *speak / speech* that “land
degradation affects a significant portion of the Earth’s arable lands,
directly / direction impacting the well-being of people and economic
development of countries”. He *added / subtracted* that: “As the
population grows, and with it the demand for agriculture production,
traditional systems of *management / managing* the land are
collapsing.” Mr. Ban said the UN must work harder to reduce *poor /
poverty* and protect dry lands. He told the world: “The time has *go /
come* for the international community to recognize that dry land,
where nearly half of the world’s *poor / poverty* live, is not waste land.
Rather, they are potential areas for agricultural intensification for both
food and energy *needs / necessary*."

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MULTIPLE CHOICE

One of the most (1) _____ problems facing our world today is the advance of deserts and the droughts this causes. June 17 is (2) ____ the World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought. It was created by the United Nations to (3) ____ attention to the seriousness of farmland and forests lost to deserts. The UN General Assembly drew up the “Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa”. This long-titled initiative (4) ____ to reverse desertification. To do this, agencies must (5) ____ poorer nations about the dangers of land degradation. Such education is one way to help reduce (6) ____ and encourage sustainable development.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said in a speech that “land degradation (7) ____ a significant portion of the Earth’s arable lands, (8) ____ impacting the well-being of people and economic development of countries”. He added that: “As the population (9) ____, and with it the demand for agriculture production, traditional systems of managing the land are collapsing.” Mr. Ban said the UN must work harder to (10) ____ poverty and protect dry lands. He told the world: “The time has come for the international community to recognize that dry land, where nearly half (11) ____ the world’s poor live, is not waste land. Rather, they are potential areas for agricultural intensification for both food and energy (12) ____.”

Put the correct words from this table into the article.

1. (a) pressing  (b) pressed  (c) pressure  (d) press
2. (a) official  (b) officials  (c) officially  (d) office
3. (a) sketch  (b) draw  (c) paint  (d) decorate
4. (a) hoping  (b) hoped  (c) hope  (d) hopes
5. (a) educational  (b) education  (c) educate  (d) educated
6. (a) poverty  (b) poor  (c) poorly  (d) impoverish
7. (a) effects  (b) affects  (c) affective  (d) effective
8. (a) direct  (b) direction  (c) directs  (d) directly
9. (a) grows  (b) growth  (c) growing  (d) grown
10. (a) reduction  (b) reduces  (c) reduce  (d) reduced
11. (a) at  (b) of  (c) as  (d) for
12. (a) necessary  (b) needy  (c) needed  (d) needs
SPELLING

Spell the **jumbled** words (from the text) correctly.

**Paragraph 1**

1. One of the most **pgsseinr** problems
2. the **dvaecan** of deserts
3. draw **tiantoetn** to
4. hopes to **sererev** desertification
5. educate **oorpre** nations
6. **eintasuabs** development

**Paragraph 2**

7. a significant **orntoip** of the Earth’s arable lands
8. **diletycr** impacting the well-being of people
9. the **ndmead** for agriculture
10. work harder to reduce **ortvype**
11. not **wtsea** land
12. food and **rygnee** needs
Number these lines in the correct order.

(  ) by the United Nations to draw attention to the seriousness of farmland and forests lost to deserts. The UN

(  ) this, agencies must educate poorer nations about the dangers of land degradation. Such education is one

(  ) Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa”. This long-titled initiative hopes to reverse desertification. To do

(  ) General Assembly drew up the “Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious

(  ) UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said in a speech that “land degradation affects a significant

(  ) systems of managing the land are collapsing.” Mr. Ban said the UN must work harder to reduce

(  ) portion of the Earth’s arable lands, directly impacting the well-being of people and economic development of

(  ) poverty and protect dry lands. He told the world: “The time has come for the international community to recognize

(  ) countries”. He added that: “As the population grows, and with it the demand for agriculture production, traditional

(  ) way to help reduce poverty and encourage sustainable development.

(1 ) One of the most pressing problems facing our world today is the advance of deserts and the droughts this

(  ) that dry land, where nearly half of the world’s poor live, is not waste land. Rather, they are potential

(  ) areas for agricultural intensification for both food and energy needs.”

(  ) causes. June 17 is officially the World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought. It was created
SCRAMBLED SENTENCES
With a partner, put the words back into the correct order.

1. the most pressing problems facing our world

2. the advance of deserts and the droughts this causes

3. farmland and forests lost to deserts

4. agencies must educate poorer nations

5. reduce poverty and encourage sustainable development

6. a significant portion of the Earth’s arable lands

7. directly impacting the well-being of people

8. traditional systems of managing the land

9. the UN must work harder to reduce poverty

10. for both food and energy needs
DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT A’s QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. __________________________________________________________

2. __________________________________________________________

3. __________________________________________________________

4. __________________________________________________________

5. __________________________________________________________

6. __________________________________________________________

DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT B’s QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

1. __________________________________________________________

2. __________________________________________________________

3. __________________________________________________________

4. __________________________________________________________

5. __________________________________________________________

6. __________________________________________________________
THE DAY TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION & DROUGHT SURVEY

Write five questions about Day to Combat Desertification & Drought in the table. Do this in pairs/groups. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper. Without your partner, interview other students. Write down their answers.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>STUDENT 1</th>
<th>STUDENT 2</th>
<th>STUDENT 3</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Q.1.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Q.2.</td>
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<td>Q.3.</td>
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<td>Q.4.</td>
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<td>Q.5.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Return to your original partner(s) and share and talk about what you found out. Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.
WRITING

Write about Day to Combat Desertification & Drought for 10 minutes. Show your partner your paper. Correct each other’s work.
HOMEWORK

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google’s search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. INTERNET: Search the Internet and find more information about Day to Combat Desertification & Drought. Talk about what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. MAGAZINE ARTICLE: Write a magazine article about Day to Combat Desertification & Drought. Write about what happens around the world. Include two imaginary interviews with people who did something on this day.
   Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

4. POSTER: Make your own poster about Day to Combat Desertification & Drought. Write about what will happen on this day around the world.
   Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.