

The Natural World

Fleydo English School • Teens • A2 • Reading • 30 min

Lesson Objectives

- Read fact files about natural wonders
- Use superlatives for extremes
- Learn geography vocabulary
- Mix comparatives and superlatives
- Write a fact file

Part 1: Reading — Earth's Record Breakers

Amazon Rainforest (by Priya): The largest tropical rainforest — 5.5 million km², bigger than Western Europe. Home to the most diverse species on Earth (~10%). Amazon River is the widest river. Trees produce 20% of world's oxygen. The biggest threat: deforestation for farming. "The most incredible place I've ever learned about."

Sahara Desert (by Marcus): The largest hot desert — almost as big as the USA. One of the hottest places on Earth (50°C+), but below zero at night! One of the driest — some areas get no rain for years. Only 25% is sand dunes; the rest is rock and mountains. 2.5 million people live there — the toughest communities. "Far more interesting than I expected."

Mount Everest (by Kai): The highest mountain — 8,849 metres. First climbed in 1953 by Hillary and Norgay. One of the most dangerous climbs. Above 8,000m = 'Death Zone' — almost no oxygen. Top temperature: minus 60°. Getting more crowded every year. "The most terrifying and the most amazing place on Earth."

Great Barrier Reef (by Olivia): The largest coral reef — 2,300 km, visible from space. The most colourful underwater world: 1,500 fish species, 400 coral types. One of the most popular tourist destinations. The most serious threat: rising temperatures cause coral bleaching. Lost more than half its coral since 1995. "The most beautiful thing in the ocean, and the most fragile."

Part 2: Comprehension

1. How big is the Amazon? (5.5M km², bigger than W. Europe.)
2. Why is Amazon important for climate? (20% of oxygen.)
3. What % of Sahara is sand? (25%.)
4. Who first climbed Everest? (Hillary & Norgay, 1953.)
5. What is the Death Zone? (Above 8,000m, almost no oxygen.)

6. How long is the Barrier Reef? (2,300 km.)
7. What threatens the reef? (Rising temperatures, coral bleaching.)

Part 3: Grammar — Superlatives

Superlative Formation

Short: the largest, the highest, the driest | Long: the most dangerous, the most beautiful

Irregular: good→the best, bad→the worst, far→the furthest

Pattern: the + superlative + in the world / on Earth

The Amazon is the largest rainforest in the world.

Everest is the highest mountain on Earth.

"one of the" + superlative + PLURAL noun

It is one of the hottest places on Earth. (NOT place!)

It is one of the most dangerous climbs in the world.

Part 4: Quiz

1. Amazon is ___ rainforest. (large)
a) the larger b) the largest c) the most large d) largest
2. Everest: one of ___ climbs. (dangerous)
a) dangerousest b) the most dangerous c) more dangerous d) most dangerousest
3. ___ environmental crisis. (bad)
a) the baddest b) the worst c) the most bad d) worse
4. % of Sahara that's sand?
a) 50% b) 25% c) 75% d) 90%
5. One of the hottest place___?
a) nothing b) -s (places) c) -es d) -'s
6. Biggest reef threat?
a) Fishing b) Rising temps + bleaching c) Pollution d) Tourists

Part 5: Fill in the Blanks

1. Amazon: _____ tropical rainforest. (large)
2. Everest: _____ mountain. (high)
3. Sahara: one of _____ places. (hot)

4. Climbing Everest: one of _____ things. (dangerous)
5. Amazon has _____ collection of species. (diverse)
6. The reef is _____ thing in the ocean. (beautiful)
7. Some Sahara areas: _____ places on Earth. (dry)
8. Coral bleaching: _____ environmental crisis. (bad)

Answers: 1. the largest 2. the highest 3. the hottest 4. the most dangerous 5. the most diverse 6. the most beautiful 7. the driest 8. the worst

Part 6: Speaking & Writing

- Which wonder would you visit?
- What is the most amazing place in your country?
- Should people climb Everest?
- What's the biggest environmental problem?

✍ Write a Fact File 10-14 sentences about a natural wonder. Where it is, how big, what makes it special (4+ superlatives), interesting facts, threats, why it's important. Pattern: "The ___ is the [superlative] ___ in the world."

Review Checklist

- I can form superlatives correctly.
- I can use "one of the + superlative + plural".
- I can use superlatives in fact files.
- I know geography vocabulary.
- I can mix comparatives and superlatives.
- I can write a fact file.

Well done! You completed Lesson 15: The Natural World!

□ Answer Key

Quiz Answers:

1. b) the largest
2. b) the most dangerous
3. b) the worst
4. b) 25%
5. b) -s (places)
6. b) Rising temps + bleaching