City plans to plant 3 million trees

24th January, 2017

The city of Manchester in England has embarked on an ambitious plan to plant three million trees. The project is called the "City of Trees". Project director, Tony Hothersall, explained that the green venture had three main aims. He said: "One is to plant three million trees - a tree for every man, woman and child -over the next 25 years. Next, we are very much focused on bringing existing woodland into management because there is no point in planting new woodland if you can't manage what you've got already. Finally, we want to engage people a lot more in their natural environment - in planting trees, in managing areas, [and] in understanding more about the benefits that trees and woodlands bring to our society."

Mr Hothersall further outlined the rationale behind the recently-launched environmental project. He said: "Manchester wants to be a world-class city region. We have a lot of fantastic development going on, but the natural environment needs to keep up with that." He believes the initiative will reconnect people with trees and the natural world, provide benefits to health and reduce stress. He said: "Woodlands can do great things in terms of air pollution reduction and can help to screen for noise pollution. They can also help cities and towns become more resilient to climate change both in terms of things like reducing the urban heat island effect and also reducing…flooding."

Sources: *bbc / manchestereveningnews / cityoftrees.org.uk*

Writing

We should stop cutting down trees and find an alternative to wood. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

city / ambitious / plan / aims / trees / woodland / natural environment / society / rationale / project / world class / development / initiative / health / stress / flooding

True / False

a) The City of Trees will be in the English city of Manchester. T / F

b) The project director said there are five main aims of the project. T / F

c) The director hopes many couples will get engaged in new woodland. T / F

d) The director said people will understand more about the benefits of trees. T / F

e) Manchester wants to be a world-class city. T / F

f) The director said the natural environment must keep up with development. T / F

g) The article said trees add to noise pollution. T / F

h) The article said urban heat islands lead to flooding. T / F

Synonym Match

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

1.	**embarked**	a.	logic
2.	**ambitious**	b.	enterprise
3.	**venture**	c.	regarding
4.	**focused**	d.	bold
5.	**benefits**	e.	tough
6.	**rationale**	f.	centred
7.	**fantastic**	g.	lower
8.	**reduce**	h.	started
9.	**in terms of**	i.	marvellous
10.	**resilient**	j.	advantages

Discussion – Student A

a) What damage are we doing to trees?

b) What are your feelings about disappearing woodlands and forests?

c) How can people reconnect with nature?

d) How can trees help education and employment?

e) How can trees help the economy?

f) How can trees help our wellbeing?

g) What causes urban heat islands?

h) What questions would you like to ask the project director?

Phrase Match

1. embarked
2. there is no
3. we want to engage
4. natural
5. the benefits that trees and
6. be a world-
7. a lot of fantastic development
8. reconnect people
9. in terms
10. become more resilient

a. class city
b. to climate change
c. woodlands bring
d. environment
e. people
f. on an ambitious plan
g. with trees
h. of air pollution
i. going on
j. point

Discussion – Student B

a) What do you think of the project?

b) How green or tree-filled is your city?

c) How important are trees?

d) How can we respect trees more?

e) What is your favourite tree, and why?

f) How does looking at a tree make you feel?

g) How engaged are you in the natural environment?

h) What benefits do trees bring to society?

Spelling

1. embarked on an saubmiiot plan

2. the green entruev had three main aims

3. we are very much usfoced

4. bringing ngietixs woodland

5. agegne people a lot more

6. in their tlauran environment

7. outlined the onelaitar

8. the recently-calenhdu environmental project

9. a world-class city eongri

10. the inativetii will reconnect people

11. in terms of air ltooplniu

12. become more lestieinr to climate change

Role Play

Role A – Politicians
You think politicians are the biggest cause of climate change. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their causes. Also, tell the others which is the least damaging of these (and why): cars, logging or average people.

Role B – Cars
You think cars are the biggest cause of climate change. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their causes. Also, tell the others which is the least damaging of these (and why): politicians, logging or average people.

Role C – Logging
You think logging is the biggest cause of climate change. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their causes. Also, tell the others which is the least damaging of these (and why): cars, politicians or average people.

Role D – Average People
You think average people are the biggest cause of climate change. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their causes. Also, tell the others which is the least damaging of these (and why): cars, logging or politicians.

Speaking – Climate change

Rank these with your partner. Put the things that make climate change worse at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- politicians
- logging
- coal
- cars
- cows
- aerosols
- average people
- lack of education

Answers – Synonym Match

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

Answers – True False

a T	b F	c F	d T	e T	f T	g F	h F

Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.