

The Green Wall of China

Today, let's talk about 'The Green Wall of China'. This is a huge area of land that stretches right across the northern part of China where a great wall of trees has been planted to try to stop the expansion of the Gobi Desert.

Since 1978 the Chinese government has been planting these trees to try to reverse the widespread deforestation that previously took place in China. Recent studies have suggested the project, which is actually called 'The Three-North Shelter Forest Programme', has been a success. They found year-on-year the increased vegetation has helped lower the levels of dust storm intensity. By 2050, 100 billion trees will be planted across a tenth of the country.

By 2006, 25 million hectares of forest had been planted in northern China. By 2050, more than 100 billion trees will occupy a 2,800-mile (4,500km) belt, 1.6 million square miles (4.1 million square km), more than a tenth of the country. In the last decade aerial seeding has been used to cover vast areas of land.

Critics say some trees may soak up large amounts of valuable groundwater, weakening the soil and preventing local people from getting suitable access to water. Others have said the project is doomed to fail and that planting trees in sandy ground won't work. They add that many trees will die. Many will need to be replanted and looked after for the project to work.

A similar such scheme was introduced in the US in 1934 by President Roosevelt who initiated the Great Plains Shelterbelt project to try to stop the severe dust storms plaguing central America. By 1942, 220 million trees had been planted from Texas to Canada. A lack of maintenance today though is threatening the dust storms to return.

SPEAKING – WARM UP

Think of three 'great walls' you know of. Where are they? Go round the room swapping details with others.

LISTENING – WRITING - DICTATION

The teacher will read some lines of the article slowly to the class.

READING

Students should now read the article aloud, swapping readers every paragraph.

SPEAKING - UNDERSTANDING

1) The article – Students check any unknown vocabulary or phrases with the teacher.

2) The article - Students should look through the article with the teacher.

- 1) What is the article about?
- 2) What do you think about the article?
- 3) Was this an easy or difficult article to understand?
- 4) Was this a boring or interesting article?
- 5) Discuss the article.

3) Article quiz - Students quiz each other in pairs. Score a point for each correct answer. Score half a point each time you have to look at the article for help. See who can get the highest score!

Student A questions

- 1) Name the two government schemes listed.
- 2) What have some critics said?
- 3) Name the countries.
- 4) What is causing the dust storms to return?
- 5) Name the President.

Student B questions

- 1) Name the desert.
- 2) What is the Green Wall of China?
- 3) What happened in 1978?
- 4) What happened by 2006?
- 5) What is 'aerial seeding'?

Category: Environment / China / Trees

Level: Intermediate / Upper Intermediate

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WRITING / SPEAKING

In pairs. On the board write as many words as you can to do with '**The Green Wall of China**'. *One-two minutes.* Compare with other teams. Using your words compile a short dialogue together.

WRITING / SPEAKING

In pairs choose three things that could make up a Green Wall of China. Why These? Write them below. Talk about them!

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

Add three things you would use to help keep the Green Wall of China alive. Discuss together.

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

Add three things that might grow in/on and around the Green Wall of China. Discuss together.

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

The teacher will choose some pairs to discuss their findings in front of the class.

DISCUSSION

Student A questions

- 1) What do you think about what you've read?
- 2) Have you ever visited China? If yes, where?
- 3) Have you ever planted a tree? Explain.
- 4) Why is the Green Wall of China important for the country?
- 5) Why are some critics doubtful about the Green Wall of China?
- 6) Can one really stop a desert?
- 7) Have you ever been to the Gobi Desert?
- 8) Have you ever been to any desert? Which one? When?
- 9) Would you give up any of your time to help maintain the Green Wall of China?
- 10) Did you like this discussion?

SPEAKING – ROLEPLAY 1

In groups. One of you is the interviewer. The others are one of the following people. You are in the *Discussion FM* radio studio in Shanghai, China. Today's interview is about: *The Green Wall of China*.

- 1) Someone from the Chinese Government.
- 2) A motorist from Shanghai.
- 3) A tourist.
- 4) An environmental critic.

The teacher will choose some groups to roleplay their interview in front of the class.

SPEAKING - ROLEPLAY 2

In pairs. One of you is in an internet café in Shanghai. The other is in another country. Start a conversation on a social network about The Green Wall of China. What is it? *5 mins.*

SPEAKING – ROLEPLAY 3

Student A thinks the Green Wall of China is a good idea. *Student B* thinks it is not. *2 mins.*

SPEAKING - DISCUSSION

Allow 10 minutes – As a class.

Discuss the following...

The Green Wall of China

The teacher can moderate the session.

DISCUSSION

Student B questions

- 1) Did the headline make you want to read the article?
- 2) Will the current American President reinvest into repairing the Great Plains Shelterbelt?
- 3) Can trees grow in sandy soil?
- 4) Think of three benefits the Green Wall of China can bring.
- 5) Think of three obstacles the Green Wall of China might encounter.
- 6) Would you like to work with plants and trees?
- 7) What is a dust storm?
- 8) Will you be planting a tree or two after this lesson?
- 9) Has this been a difficult lesson?
- 10) Have you learnt anything in today's English lesson?

GAP FILL: READING

The Green Wall of China

Today, let's talk about 'The Green Wall of China'. This is a huge area of land that stretches right across the northern part of China where a great (1)___ of trees has been planted to try to stop the (2)___ of the Gobi Desert.

Since 1978 the Chinese government has been planting these trees to try to (3)___ the widespread deforestation that previously took place in China. Recent studies have suggested the (4)___, which is actually called 'The Three-North Shelter Forest Programme', has been a (5)___.

They found year-on-year the increased vegetation has helped lower the levels of (6)___ intensity. By 2050, 100 billion (7)___ will be planted across a tenth of the country. By 2006, 25 million hectares of forest had been planted in northern China. By 2050, more than 100 billion trees will (8)___ a 2,800-mile (4,500km) belt,

dust storm / project / occupy / reverse / success / expansion / trees / wall

1.6 million square miles (4.1 million square km), more than a tenth of the country. In the last (1)___ (2)___ seeding has been used to cover (3)___ areas of land.

Critics say some trees may soak up large amounts of valuable groundwater, weakening the (4)___ and preventing local people from getting suitable access to water. Others have said the project is doomed to (5)___ and that planting trees in sandy ground won't work. They add that many trees will die. Many will need to be replanted and looked after for the project to work. A similar such (6)___ was introduced in the US in 1934 by President Roosevelt who initiated the Great Plains Shelterbelt project to try to stop the (7)___ dust storms plaguing central America. By 1942, 220 million trees had been planted from Texas to Canada. A lack of (8)___ today though is threatening the dust storms to return.

scheme / soil / decade / fail / vast / maintenance / severe / aerial

GAP FILL: GRAMMAR

The Green Wall of China

Today, let's talk about 'The Green Wall of China'. (1)___ is a huge area of land that stretches right across the northern part of China (2)___ a great wall of trees has been planted to try to stop the expansion of the Gobi Desert.

(3)___ 1978 the Chinese government has been planting these trees to try to reverse (4)___ widespread deforestation that previously took place (5)___ China. Recent studies have suggested the project, which is actually called 'The Three-North Shelter Forest Programme', has been a success.

They found year-on-year the increased vegetation has helped lower the levels of dust storm intensity. (6)___ 2050, 100 billion trees will be planted across (7)___ tenth of the country. By 2006, 25 million hectares (8)___ forest had been planted in northern China. By 2050, more than 100 billion trees will occupy a 2,800-mile (4,500km) belt,

by / of / in / the / a / this / since / where

1.6 million square miles (4.1 million square km), (1)___ (2)___ a tenth of the country. In the last decade aerial seeding has been used to cover vast areas of land.

Critics say (3)___ trees may soak up large amounts of valuable groundwater, weakening the soil and preventing local people from getting suitable access to water. Others have said the project is doomed to fail and (4)___ planting trees in sandy ground won't work. (5)___ add that many trees will die. (6)___ will need to be replanted and looked after for the project to work. A similar (7)___ scheme was introduced in the US in 1934 by President Roosevelt who initiated the Great Plains Shelterbelt project to try to stop the severe dust storms plaguing central America. By 1942, 220 million trees had been planted from Texas to Canada. A lack of maintenance today (8)___ is threatening the dust storms to return.

though / such / many / some / that / than / they / more

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GAP FILL: LISTENING

The Green Wall of China

Today, let's talk about 'The _____'. This is a huge area of land that stretches right across the northern part of China where a great wall of trees has been planted to try to stop the expansion _____.

Since 1978 the _____ has been planting these trees to try to reverse the widespread deforestation that previously took place in China. Recent studies have suggested the project, which is actually called 'The Three-North Shelter Forest Programme', _____. They found year-on-year the increased vegetation has helped lower the levels of dust storm intensity. By 2050, 100 billion trees will be planted across a tenth of the country.

By 2006, 25 million _____ had been planted in northern China. By 2050, more than 100 billion trees will occupy a 2,800-mile (4,500km) belt, 1.6 million square miles (4.1 million square km), more than a tenth of the country. In the last decade _____ been used to cover vast areas of land.

Critics say some trees may soak up large amounts of _____, weakening the soil and preventing local people from getting suitable access to water. Others have said the project is doomed to fail and that planting trees in sandy ground won't work. They add that _____. Many will need to be replanted and looked after for the project to work. A similar such scheme was introduced in the US in 1934 by President Roosevelt who initiated the _____ project to try to stop the severe dust storms plaguing central America. By 1942, 220 million trees had been planted from Texas to Canada. A lack of maintenance today though is threatening the _____.

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WRITING/SPELLING

WRITING / SPEAKING

1) On the board - *In pairs*, list five other famous walls. *One-two minutes*. Talk about each of them.

2) Sentence starters - Finish these sentence starters. Correct your mistakes. Compare what other people have written.

- 1) The Gobi Desert _____
- 2) The Green Wall _____
- 3) China _____

3) Homework - Write and send a 200 word email to your teacher about: **The Green Wall of China**. Your email can be read out in class.

SPELLING

The teacher will ask the class individually to spell the following words that are in the article. Afterwards check your answers.

- 1) occupy
- 2) hectares
- 3) northern
- 4) Gobi Desert
- 5) expansion
- 6) Chinese
- 7) deforestation
- 8) reverse
- 9) widespread
- 10) previously

SPELLING

Use the following ratings:

Pass = 12

Good = 15

Very good = 18

Excellent = 20

- 11) project
- 12) vegetation
- 13) billion
- 14) vast
- 15) aerial
- 16) critics
- 17) valuable
- 18) suitable
- 19) such
- 20) maintenance

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