

Earth Hour Quiz | Answer Key

Level 1

1. Why do fireflies produce flashes of light?

- a. To find their way through the dark forest
- b. To attract their prey
- c. To signal to each other
- d. All of the above

Answer: The correct answer is **c. To signal each other.** Fireflies flash to signal to potential mates. A male firefly flashes a specific pattern, unique to the species, as it flies. A female may flash in response, leading to a flashing 'conversation' between the pair.

2. Which of these is the National Heritage Animal of India?

- a. Bengal tiger
- b. Asian elephant
- c. Gangetic river dolphin
- d. Indian Peafowl

Answer: The correct answer is **b. Asian elephant.** The elephant was declared the National Heritage Animal of India in 2010 in recognition of its importance in Indian tradition and culture. India has about 27,000 elephants in the wild (according to census in 2017).

3. For which of these large animals is Gir National Park most well-known?

- a. Indian bison / gaur
- b. Bengal tiger
- c. Indian rhinoceros
- d. Asiatic lion

Answer: The correct answer is **d. Asiatic lion.** Gir National Park in Gujarat is the last refuge of the Asiatic lion. This magnificent animal once roamed across Southwest Asia but is now restricted to this one region.

4. *Bagheera*, a character featuring in Rudyard Kipling's 'Jungle Book' is based on which of the following animals found in the Indian forests?

- a. Bengal tiger
- b. Black panther
- c. Indian rock python
- d. Sloth bear

Answer: The correct answer is **b. Black panther**. Black panthers are not a distinct species, but are simply dark-coloured variants of the leopards found in the Indian forests.

5. Which of these crocodiles is named after the unique bump on the tip of its snout?

- a. Mugger
- b. Saltwater crocodile
- c. Dwarf crocodile
- d. Gharial

Answer: The correct answer is **d. Gharial**. Gharials are the only crocodiles with the bumps on their snout. The name 'gharial' is derived from the Hindi word 'ghara' meaning earthen pot, in reference to a bump on the snout, which is used by males for vocal communication and to attract females.

6. What is the purpose of Earth Hour?

- a. To save energy for an hour
- b. To cut down on light pollution
- c. To cut down on fossil fuel use
- d. To inspire conversations on our planet's future

Answer: The correct answer is **d. To inspire conversations on our planet's future**.

Although Earth Hour involves switching off the lights in a show of unity, its purpose is to spark global conversations on protecting nature and inspire individuals and organisations to action.

7. How many legs do crabs have?

- a. Four
- b. Six
- c. Eight
- d. Ten

Answer: The correct answer is **d. Ten**. Crabs have ten legs. The first pair of legs has strong claws that are used to grip prey. The remaining eight legs are used for walking.

8. Based on their food habits, which of the following is the odd one out?

- a. Nilgai
- b. Sloth bear
- c. Indian boar
- d. Indian Peafowl

Answer: The correct answer is **a. Nilgai**. The nilgai, the largest antelope of India, is a herbivore that feeds on grasses, herbs, and woody plants. The sloth bear, Indian boar, and peafowl are omnivores.

9. Which animal is ‘Shakti’, the mascot of Women’s Premiere League (WPL)?

- a. Swan
- b. Lioness
- c. Bear
- d. Tiger

Answer: The correct answer is **d. Tiger**. Shakti, the official mascot of the Women’s Premiere League, resembles a tigress donning the uniform of the Indian women’s cricket league.

10. If you were looking at ‘Kaiser-i-Hind’ (The Emperor of India), you are looking at a rare species of:

- a. Bird
- b. Butterfly
- c. Fish
- d. Tree

Answer: The correct answer is **b. Butterfly**. Kaiser-i-Hind, the State Butterfly of Arunachal Pradesh, is found along the Eastern Himalayas in India. Although protected under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, the insect is threatened by butterfly collectors.

Level 2

1. How do wildlife corridors help wildlife?

- a. They provide safe passage to wildlife as animals move between fragmented habitats.
- b. They act as barriers, protecting wildlife from traffic.
- c. They provide a buffer between farms and forests, deterring wildlife from straying into fields.
- d. They are only useful to humans and have no impact on wildlife.

Answer: The correct answer is **a. They provide safe passage to wildlife as animals move between fragmented habitats.** Wildlife corridors allow animals to move between pockets of fragmented habitats, thus allowing the animals to mingle, mate, and access food across a wider area. This helps maintain healthier and more resilient wildlife populations.

2. Sacred groves are:

- a. Plantations earmarked for commercial cutting of trees
- b. Tracts of natural forests protected by local communities
- c. Grasslands designated for cattle grazing
- d. Herbal gardens meant for growing medicinal plants

Answer: The correct answer is **b. Tracts of natural forests protected by local communities.** Sacred groves are found across India and around the world. They are protected and revered by local communities. In India, sacred groves are considered protected by a deity, and are a refuge for various plants and animals.

3. Which of these animals thrives in herds in the chilly high-altitude region of Ladakh?

- a. Sambar
- b. Gaur
- c. Kiang
- d. Khur

Answer: The correct answer is **c. Kiang.** The kiang is a species of wild ass, much larger than the khur or Indian wild ass that is found in Gujarat. To survive in the cold, high-altitude landscape of Ladakh, kiangs have a thick coat in winter, broad hooves for walking on snow, and blood with high oxygen-carrying capacity to cope with the low oxygen levels.

4. Which of these biogeographical zones of India is a globally identified 'biodiversity hotspot'?

- a. Western Ghats
- b. Thar desert
- c. Eastern Ghats
- d. Lakshadweep islands

Answer: The correct answer is **a. Western Ghats**. The Western Ghats is recognised as one of the world's 'hottest hotspots' of biodiversity. Its forests are home to at least 325 globally threatened flora, fauna, bird, amphibian, reptile and fish species.

5. This vegetarian marine mammal is the flagship species of the Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve.

- a. Indo-Pacific bottlenose dolphin
- b. Humpback whale
- c. Dugong
- d. Olive Ridley turtle

Answer: The correct answer is **c. Dugong**. Dugongs, commonly referred to as 'sea cows', are found in warm, shallow waters around the coasts. Sea grass beds serve as their feeding and breeding grounds.

6. Why do snakes flick their tongues?

- a. To gather chemical information
- b. To cool themselves down on hot days
- c. To communicate with other snakes
- d. To gather moisture for drinking

Answer: The correct answer is **a. To gather chemical information**. Flicking their tongues helps snakes gather chemical information about their environment to detect prey, predators, and potential mates. Scent molecules are drawn into the Jacobson's organs in the roof of their mouth and analysed.

7. Which small raptor, with one of the longest flying migratory routes in the world, is celebrated with an annual festival in north-eastern India?

- a. Peregrine falcon
- b. Shikra

- c. Amur falcon
- d. Merlin

Answer: The correct answer is **c. Amur falcon.** Amur falcons make a long journey from Russia and China to their wintering grounds in South Africa, with a pit stop in north-eastern India. These birds were once hunted in the region, but now, we've got festivals celebrating these long-distance travellers!

8. Why do some plants like the pitcher plant capture insects?

- a. To lure other animals for food
- b. To get important nutrients
- c. To help in pollination of their flowers
- d. To provide shelter to the insect

Answer: The correct answer is **b. To get important nutrients.** Pitcher plants, and other carnivorous plants, have specialised parts adapted from leaves and other plant parts. They use these to capture and digest insects for additional nutrients, particularly nitrogen.

9. A dragonfly's body is chunky and short while a damselfly's body is long and slender. Select the other difference between these insects.

- a. Dragonflies have smaller eyes than damselflies do.
- b. Dragonflies are usually red or brown while damselflies have different colours.
- c. When at rest, a dragonfly's wings are spread open and flat, while a damselfly's wings are folded close together.
- d. Damselflies have only one pair of wings while dragonflies have two.

Answer: The correct answer is **c. When at rest, a dragonfly's wings are spread open and flat, while a damselfly's wings are folded close together.** Dragonflies and damselflies have many features in common, including each having four wings and bodies of different colours. Dragonflies have larger eyes that are close together, unlike damselflies. However, the position of their wings when they are resting is an easy way to tell the two apart.

10. A 'living fossil' is an organism that has survived mostly unchanged for years. Which of these trees is a living fossil?

- a. Baobab
- b. Ribbonwood tree
- c. Wollemi pine
- d. Ginkgo tree

Answer: The correct answer is **d. Ginkgo tree**. Known for its beauty and its longevity, the ginkgo is a living fossil, unchanged for more than 200 million years. It is cultivated around the world and is used in traditional Chinese medicine.

Level 3

1. Which of these national parks, a known birder's delight, was once the only known wintering ground for the Siberian Crane?

- a. Keoladeo Ghana National Park
- b. Great Himalayan National Park
- c. Guindy National Park
- d. Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park

Answer: The correct answer is **a. Keoladeo Ghana National Park**. Formerly known as Bharatpur Bird Sanctuary, Keoladeo Ghana National Park is a Ramsar Site as well as a World Heritage Site. One of the world's most important feeding and breeding grounds for birds, this site has recorded over 360 bird species.

2. This rare herb grows naturally in the upper reaches of the Himalayas is the state flower of Uttarakhand.

- a. Neelakurinji
- b. Ketaki
- c. Palash
- d. Brahma Kamal

Answer: The correct answer is **d. Brahma Kamal**. The Brahma Kamal, also referred to as the 'King of Himalayan Flowers', is known for its white lotus-like flowers that bloom after sunset just once a year. The flower has immense cultural and medicinal value, but their excessive collection has resulted in it becoming endangered.

3. Which of these animals can leave or shed its shell?

- a. Crab
- b. Turtle
- c. Snail
- d. Armadillo

Answer: The correct answer is **a. Crab**. Turtles and snails have shells that are integral to their bodies and do not shed. The armadillo's body is covered by an armoured plate that grows from skin. However, crabs moult and shed their shell as a part of their growth.

4. The Andaman and Nicobar Islands are home to more than 9,100 species, of which 1,032 are unique to the region and not found elsewhere. Why do you think this is so?

- a. Volcanic activity has created nutrient-rich soils that boost plant growth.
- b. The tropical climate allows specialised species to flourish.
- c. Geographical isolation has enabled unique evolutionary adaptations
- d. Shipping has introduced invasive species not found on the islands earlier.

Answer: The correct answer is **c. Geographical isolation has enabled unique evolutionary adaptations**. The Andaman and Nicobar Islands are in the Bay of Bengal, separated from the mainland India by ocean. This isolation has allowed species to evolve over time, developing distinctive characteristics, many of which are unique and not found anywhere else in the world.

5. What is a Ramsar site?

- a. Wetland of international importance for biodiversity conservation
- b. Wetland known for their scenic beauty
- c. Region with unique urban landscape or architecture
- d. Region known for its exceptional agricultural productivity

Answer: The correct answer is **a. Wetland of international importance for biodiversity conservation**. Ramsar sites are designated under the Ramsar Convention, an international treaty focused on the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands. These sites are recognised for their ecological importance and are protected to maintain biodiversity and ecosystem services.

6. Known for its colourful flowers, *Lantana camara* is a plant that is widely sold in nurseries. But why is it bad news for natural habitats?

- a. It is a plant that is toxic to wildlife.
- b. It is a thorny shrub.
- c. It changes the characteristics of soil.
- d. It is an invasive plant that outcompetes native plants.

Answer: The correct answer is **d. It is an invasive plant that outcompetes native plants.** Lantana, a tropical American shrub, was brought to India in the early 1800s as an ornamental plant. However, the plant has invaded habitats across India, threatening native biodiversity as it competes with native plants and alters the nutrient cycle in the soil. It now occupies 40% of India's tiger range alone.

7. Which of the following industries contributes to greenhouse gas emissions?

- a. Agriculture
- b. Animal Farming
- c. Transportation
- d. They all do

Answer: The correct answer is **d. They all do.** Vehicles that run on petrol and diesel release carbon dioxide as their primary greenhouse gas emission. However, methane, which is released due to agriculture and animal farming, has more than 80 times the warming power of carbon dioxide!

8. The only species of _____ that is found in India is the hoolock gibbon.

- a. Dolphin
- b. Ape
- c. Tortoise
- d. Bird

Answer: The correct answer is **b. Ape.** Hoolock gibbons are found in north-eastern India, with Assam designating a sanctuary for the species at the Hollongapar Gibbon Sanctuary. These animals are tree-dwelling apes that feed mainly on fruits, playing the important role of seed dispersers in forest ecosystems.

9. Which of the following Indian national parks is known for being home to the 'Big Five' - the elephant, tiger, rhino, swamp deer, and wild water buffalo?

- a. Periyar National Park
- b. Ranthambore National Park
- c. Kaziranga National Park
- d. Gir National Park

Answer: The correct answer is **c. Kaziranga National Park.** Kaziranga National Park in Assam is notable for being a tiger reserve, an elephant reserve, and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. To top it off, it is home to the world's largest population of the one-horned rhinoceros!

10. This tree, found in deciduous forests, is known as the 'flame of the forest' for its crimson flowers. Its flower is the state flower of Jharkhand!

- a. Palash or parrot tree
- b. Gulmohar
- c. Kapok or semal
- d. Rhododendron

Answer: The correct answer is **a. Palash or parrot tree.** Native to the Indian subcontinent and Southeast Asia, Palash is a beautiful flowering tree which produces bright, red, and orange flowers. The flowers have five petals with a beak-shaped keel, which earns it the name “parrot tree”.
