

# **WORLD DAY TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION & DROUGHT**

[http://www.eslHolidayLessons.com/06/day\\_to\\_combat\\_desertification\\_and\\_drought.html](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 / TAPESCRIPT

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

### Paragraph 2

- |                                     |                             |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. a significant                    | <i>a.</i> being of people   |
| 2. directly impacting the well-     | <i>b.</i> poor live         |
| 3. traditional systems of           | <i>c.</i> portion           |
| 4. the UN must work harder          | <i>d.</i> needs             |
| 5. where nearly half of the world's | <i>e.</i> to reduce poverty |
| 6. food and energy                  | <i>f.</i> 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.

*reverse*

*causes*

*drew*

*poverty*

*pressing*

*nations*

*titled*

*draw*

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 \_\_\_\_\_."

*portion*

*needs*

*time*

*economic*

*speech*

*land*

*waste*

*grows*

**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*."

## 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. eilntasuabs 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

## PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

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. \_\_\_\_\_

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**DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)**

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

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

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# 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.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

## DAY TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION & DROUGHT

**Return to your original partner(s) and share and talk about what you found out.  
Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.**



## 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 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.