

# Planet Earth 2 Islands Worksheet Answers

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English  
*The Planet Earth.*



The Earth is our home, but much of it is dirty or dying. An important concern across the world today is the need to protect the environment. Neil Armstrong, the first man to step on the moon, once said "The Earth itself is a spacecraft... If you are going to run a spaceship you have to be very cautious about how you use your resources... and how you treat your spacecraft." In other words, people have to take care of the Earth to continue to live here. When Armstrong walked on the moon in 1969, he noted how beautiful and fragile the Earth looked.

At the beginning, the native people took good care of the Earth. They knew the importance of the land. They respected the water, animals and plants. Today, some people treat the Earth carelessly. They dump paper, food and other wastes on streets, in oceans and in the rivers and they destroy our forests.

In the future, we can be sure that the world will continue changing. One day people may finally learn to take care of the Earth. They may solve many of today's problems. New problems will certainly appear, but people will still hope and work for better lives. That's why we must learn to respect and protect our planet now.

Adapted from *America Will be*, Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co., 1994.

Read and answer the questions about the text.

1. What's happening to the Earth nowadays?

**Planet Earth 2 Islands Worksheet Answers** are an essential resource for educators and students who are exploring the captivating ecosystems and wildlife of Earth's islands, as depicted in the documentary series "Planet Earth II." This series, narrated by Sir David Attenborough, takes viewers on a breathtaking journey through some of the most remote and stunning locations on the planet, showcasing the unique flora and fauna that inhabit these isolated lands. In this article, we will delve into the islands featured in the series, the educational worksheets that accompany them, and provide comprehensive answers to enhance learning and engagement.

# Overview of Planet Earth II

"Planet Earth II" is a sequel to the acclaimed "Planet Earth" series released in 2006. The second installment, which aired in 2016, consists of six episodes, each focusing on different environments: cities, mountains, grasslands, jungles, deserts, and islands. The islands episode captures the unique adaptations and survival strategies of various species living in island ecosystems.

## Importance of Islands in Biodiversity

Islands are often seen as isolated ecosystems, but they play a crucial role in global biodiversity. Due to their geographical separation, islands tend to have distinct species that are not found anywhere else on Earth. Here are some key points about the significance of islands:

- **Unique Species Diversity:** Islands are home to numerous endemic species, such as the Galápagos tortoise and the flightless kiwi.
- **Evolutionary Laboratory:** The isolation of islands provides a unique environment for evolutionary processes, allowing species to adapt and evolve differently than their mainland counterparts.
- **Conservation Challenges:** Islands face significant threats from invasive species, habitat destruction, and climate change, making conservation efforts vital.

## Key Islands Featured in Planet Earth II

In the "Islands" episode, several islands are prominently featured, showcasing their unique wildlife and ecosystems. Here are some of the notable islands highlighted:

### 1. Madagascar

Madagascar is renowned for its extraordinary biodiversity. The island is home to various species of lemurs, chameleons, and unique flora. The documentary emphasizes the delicate balance of its ecosystems and the threats posed by deforestation.

### 2. Galápagos Islands

The Galápagos Islands are famous for their role in Charles Darwin's theory of evolution. The series showcases the diverse marine life, including the Galápagos sea lion and marine iguanas. The islands' unique ecological systems illustrate evolutionary processes in action.

### 3. Fiji

Fiji's vibrant coral reefs and marine biodiversity are explored in the documentary. The episode highlights the challenges faced by these ecosystems, including coral bleaching and the impact of climate change.

### 4. Komodo Island

Home to the Komodo dragon, the largest living lizard, Komodo Island is featured for its unique predator-prey dynamics. The documentary captures the fierce hunting techniques of these dragons and their role in maintaining the island's ecological balance.

## Planet Earth II Islands Worksheet Overview

The "Planet Earth II Islands Worksheet" is designed to enhance students' understanding of the documentary's content. These worksheets typically include a variety of activities, such as comprehension questions, vocabulary exercises, and thematic discussions. Here are common components found in these worksheets:

1. **Comprehension Questions:** Questions that assess viewing comprehension and critical thinking.
2. **Vocabulary Building:** Activities that focus on key terms related to island ecosystems and conservation.
3. **Discussion Topics:** Prompts that encourage group discussions on environmental issues and conservation strategies.

## Sample Questions and Answers

To aid educators and students, here are some sample questions from the "Planet Earth II Islands Worksheet" along with their answers:

### Comprehension Questions

1. What are some unique adaptations of species found on Madagascar?  
- Answer: Species in Madagascar, such as lemurs, have developed unique adaptations like strong social bonds and specialized feeding habits to thrive in their specific habitats. For example, the aye-aye uses its long fingers to extract insects from tree bark.
2. How do the Galápagos Islands illustrate the concept of natural selection?

- Answer: The Galápagos Islands demonstrate natural selection through the variation in beak shapes of finches, which evolved to adapt to different food sources on the islands, supporting Darwin's theory of evolution.

3. What threats do coral reefs in Fiji face, as depicted in the documentary?

- Answer: Coral reefs in Fiji face threats such as climate change, which leads to coral bleaching, overfishing, and pollution, all of which significantly impact marine biodiversity.

## **Vocabulary Building**

- Endemic: Species that are native to a particular region and not found elsewhere.
- Biodiversity: The variety of life in the world or in a particular habitat or ecosystem.
- Invasive Species: Non-native species that, when introduced to a new environment, can cause harm to the native species and ecosystems.

## **Discussion Topics**

1. Discuss the impact of human activity on island ecosystems.
  - Consider how tourism, deforestation, and pollution affect wildlife and natural habitats.
2. What conservation strategies can be implemented to protect island biodiversity?
  - Discuss the importance of establishing protected areas, controlling invasive species, and promoting sustainable tourism.

## **Conclusion**

The "Planet Earth II Islands Worksheet Answers" serve as a valuable tool for educators and students to deepen their understanding of island ecosystems showcased in the documentary. By exploring the unique biodiversity of islands like Madagascar, the Galápagos, Fiji, and Komodo Island, students gain insight into the delicate balance of nature and the importance of conservation efforts. As we learn more about these remote habitats, it becomes imperative to foster a sense of responsibility towards protecting our planet's natural heritage. The combination of engaging visual storytelling and educational resources like worksheets enriches the learning experience, inspiring future generations to appreciate and protect the world's oceans and islands.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What are the main themes explored in the 'Planet Earth 2' islands episode?**

The main themes include biodiversity, survival strategies of species, and the impact of isolation on evolution.

## **How do islands contribute to the concept of evolution according to 'Planet Earth 2'?**

Islands serve as natural laboratories for evolution, where species adapt to specific environments in isolation, leading to unique adaptations and biodiversity.

## **What types of animals are prominently featured in the islands episode of 'Planet Earth 2'?**

The episode features various species including iguanas, seabirds, and unique mammals that have adapted to island life.

## **What role does climate play in the ecosystems of islands, as shown in 'Planet Earth 2'?**

Climate affects the availability of resources, which in turn influences the survival and reproductive strategies of island species.

## **Can you name a specific island highlighted in the 'Planet Earth 2' islands episode and its significance?**

The episode highlights the Galápagos Islands, which are significant for their role in Charles Darwin's theory of natural selection.

## **What are some challenges faced by wildlife on islands, as depicted in 'Planet Earth 2'?**

Challenges include limited resources, predation by invasive species, and the impacts of climate change.

## **How does 'Planet Earth 2' illustrate the concept of conservation in island ecosystems?**

The series emphasizes the importance of protecting unique habitats and the species that inhabit them to preserve biodiversity.

## **What educational resources accompany the 'Planet Earth 2' islands episode for deeper understanding?**

Accompanying resources include worksheets and discussion guides that help viewers analyze the content and themes presented in the episode.

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