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Answers

Quiz: Farming and food

This short quiz could be used as an introduction to the themes of farming, agriculture and food. It could be used as a bit of fun at the start or end of a lesson. It is designed to help students start thinking about the location and geography of deserts as well as the desertification threat. The correct answers are given below, along with some additional information.

- 1 The correct answer is A, wheat. In 2021, 221 million hectares of wheat were grown worldwide (206 million ha of maize, 165 million ha of rice but only 18 million ha of potatoes). 221 million hectares is about the size of the total land area of Saudi Arabia.
- 2 The correct answer is C, 70%. However, in Europe the figure is around 40% whereas in South Asia it is around 90%. Globally, farming places huge pressure on water resources compared to domestic (household) use and industrial use.
- 3 The correct answer is D, 51%. These three carbohydrate cereal crops are critically important for global food supply. Over 4 billion people depend on rice for at least 25% of their daily calorie intake.
- 4 The correct answer is C, Brazil. In 2020 Brazil's net food exports were \$64 billion, much of this was soybeans and beef. The USA is by far the largest exporter of food, but also imports food from around the world so has a smaller net position.
- 5 The correct answer is A, 50%. Back in 1990 the figure was less than 15%, and increased to 26% by 2000. Fish farming has significant environmental impacts such as deforestation of coastal mangroves for fish farm ponds and water pollution from waste.
- 6 The correct answer is B, beef. One kilo of beef is linked to about 60 kg of carbon emissions: other values are coffee 17 kg, eggs 4.5 kg and apples 0.4 kg. Farming cattle is linked to deforestation, uses large feed inputs and processing inputs. Cattle also emit large volumes of methane. Vegetable-based diets tend to be more 'climate friendly' than meat-based diets.
- 7 The correct answer is A, more people. Roughly 8 billion people but only 4.7 billion cattle, sheep, pigs and goats combined. However, the global farmed chicken population is over 20 billion. See www.tinyurl.com/4znbaseh for more details.

8 The correct answer is B, 17%. UNEP estimated that 11% is wasted by households, 5% in food service and 2% by retailers. For more details see: www.tinyurl.com/2p8b64tp

9 The correct answer is C, cocoa beans used to make chocolate. 37% of all cocoa beans are farmed in just one country, Cote D'Ivoire (Ivory Coast). All cocoa producing countries are equatorial as the plant cannot be grown outside these areas.

10 The correct answer is C, 8,000-10,000 km.

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