

Climate Migration: Communities on the Move

COMPREHENSION • VOCABULARY • DISCUSSION

INTERACTIVE ONLINE TEST

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Reading Passage

Read the passage carefully. Each paragraph is labelled with a letter for easy reference.

- A** In recent years, climate change has forced many communities around the world to relocate. Rising sea levels, extreme weather events, and prolonged droughts have made certain areas uninhabitable. For instance, the island nation of Tuvalu faces the possibility of becoming submerged by the end of the century, prompting its residents to seek refuge elsewhere. Similarly, in parts of Africa, unpredictable rainfall patterns have devastated crops, leaving families with no choice but to migrate to urban centers in search of better opportunities and a more stable life. This movement is not just a personal decision; it is a growing global phenomenon that governments and organizations are beginning to address with urgency.
- B** The impact of climate migration is felt both in the places people leave and the locations where they settle. Host cities often struggle with the sudden influx of new residents, leading to overcrowding, increased demand for housing, and competition for limited resources. For example, cities like Dhaka in Bangladesh and Nairobi in Kenya have seen significant increases in population due to climate-related migration, which has put pressure on infrastructure and public services. These challenges necessitate careful planning and support from local governments to ensure that both newcomers and existing residents can thrive together. As climate change continues to escalate, understanding and addressing the complexities of migration will be crucial for fostering resilient communities worldwide. This includes developing policies that can accommodate the needs of displaced populations while also enhancing the resilience of host cities to better manage future challenges.

Vocabulary Glossary

Key words and phrases from the passage. Study them before attempting the exercise below.

WORD / PHRASE	DEFINITION	EXAMPLE SENTENCE
relocate	to move to a different place to live	<i>After the storm, many families had to relocate to safer areas.</i>
uninhabitable	not suitable for living in	<i>The old house was uninhabitable due to its broken roof and walls.</i>
refuge	a safe place where people go to avoid danger	<i>The animals found refuge in the forest during the fire.</i>
phenomenon	an event or situation that is observed to happen	<i>The northern lights are a natural phenomenon that many people travel to see.</i>
influx	the arrival of a large number of people or things	<i>The city saw an influx of tourists during the holiday season.</i>
infrastructure	the basic systems and services needed for a place to work	<i>The city is improving its infrastructure by building new roads.</i>
resilient	able to recover quickly from difficult conditions	<i>The resilient plant grew back quickly after the storm.</i>
displaced	forced to leave one's home or place	<i>The flood displaced many families who then moved to shelters.</i>

Vocabulary Exercise — Fill in the Blank

Use one word or phrase from the glossary above to complete each sentence. Each item is used only once. Answers are on the final page.

1. After the hurricane, the town was no longer safe and people had to _____.
2. The desert is often considered _____ due to its harsh conditions.
3. They sought _____ in a nearby village after their home was destroyed.
4. The sudden _____ of workers caused the company to expand its offices.
5. The city council invested in new _____ to support the growing population.
6. The _____ community quickly rebuilt after the earthquake.

Comprehension Questions

These questions are different from the online practice test. Choose the best answer (A, B, C, or D). Answers and explanations are on the final page.

Question 1

Why are residents of Tuvalu seeking refuge elsewhere?

- A. Due to rising sea levels threatening submersion
- B. Because of a lack of jobs on the island
- C. To find better education opportunities
- D. To escape frequent volcanic eruptions

Question 2

What is a major challenge for host cities receiving climate migrants?

- A. Lack of cultural exchange
- B. Pressure on infrastructure and services
- C. Decreased local employment opportunities
- D. Increased crime rates

Question 3

What is the author's purpose in discussing the challenges faced by Dhaka and Nairobi?

- A. To highlight the economic growth in these cities
- B. To show how cities adapt to climate changes
- C. To illustrate the pressure migration puts on urban areas
- D. To suggest relocation strategies for other cities

Question 4

What does 'prolonged droughts' imply about certain regions?

- A. They have always been dry
- B. Rainfall has become more consistent
- C. They experience extended periods without rain
- D. There are frequent floods

Question 5

What does the passage suggest is necessary for managing future migration challenges?

- A. Ignoring the needs of displaced populations
- B. Developing new policies and enhancing city resilience
- C. Focusing solely on urban development
- D. Limiting migration through strict laws

Discussion & Writing Prompts

Each prompt references a specific detail from the passage above. Use for classroom discussion or a short written response (150–200 words).

1. The passage mentions Tuvalu potentially becoming submerged by the end of the century. What measures could international communities take to assist nations like Tuvalu?

2. In the passage, Dhaka and Nairobi face pressure from population increases due to climate migration. What urban planning strategies could help these cities better accommodate new residents?

3. According to the passage, unpredictable rainfall patterns in parts of Africa force families to migrate. How might changes in agricultural practices help mitigate this issue?

Answer Key

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

Q1 A

Q2 B

Q3 C

Q4 C

Q5 B

VOCABULARY EXERCISE

FIB1 relocate

FIB2 uninhabitable

FIB3 refuge

FIB4 influx

FIB5 infrastructure

FIB6 resilient

Comprehension Question Explanations

Why the correct answer is right — and why each wrong option is incorrect.

1. Why are residents of Tuvalu seeking refuge elsewhere?

✓ A — Due to rising sea levels threatening submersion

The passage states that Tuvalu faces becoming submerged due to rising sea levels.

✗ B — Because of a lack of jobs on the island

The passage does not mention job scarcity as a reason for migration.

✗ C — To find better education opportunities

Education opportunities are not cited as a cause for leaving Tuvalu.

✗ D — To escape frequent volcanic eruptions

Volcanic eruptions are not mentioned in the context of Tuvalu.

2. What is a major challenge for host cities receiving climate migrants?

✓ B — Pressure on infrastructure and services

The passage highlights the strain on infrastructure and public services as a main issue.

✗ A — Lack of cultural exchange

Cultural exchange is not mentioned as a challenge.

✗ C — Decreased local employment opportunities

Employment opportunities are not specifically discussed as decreasing.

✗ D — Increased crime rates

Crime rates are not mentioned in the passage.

3. What is the author's purpose in discussing the challenges faced by Dhaka and Nairobi?

✓ C — To illustrate the pressure migration puts on urban areas

The passage uses Dhaka and Nairobi to show the pressures from population increases.

✗ A — To highlight the economic growth in these cities

Economic growth is not the focus of the discussion about these cities.

✗ B — To show how cities adapt to climate changes

Adaptation strategies are not detailed in this context.

✗ D — To suggest relocation strategies for other cities

Relocation strategies are not suggested for other cities.

4. What does 'prolonged droughts' imply about certain regions?

✓ C — They experience extended periods without rain

Prolonged droughts mean these regions go long times without rain.

✗ A — They have always been dry

The passage does not suggest these regions have always been dry.

✗ B — Rainfall has become more consistent

It states the opposite, with less consistent rainfall.

✗ D — There are frequent floods

Droughts and floods are opposite events.

5. What does the passage suggest is necessary for managing future migration challenges?

✓ B — Developing new policies and enhancing city resilience

The passage emphasizes policies and resilience as key to managing future challenges.

✗ A — Ignoring the needs of displaced populations

The passage suggests addressing, not ignoring, displaced populations' needs.

✗ C — Focusing solely on urban development

It suggests a balanced approach, not just urban development focus.

✗ D — Limiting migration through strict laws

The passage does not advocate for limiting migration through strict laws.

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