

Pine Tree Reading Passage

You should spend 20 minutes reading the passage below and answering each question (1–13).

Pine Tree

The tree I am gazing at has a very thick, twisted trunk that rises to a medium height, where a stumpy canopy of sharp needles is visible. It's a tree, but it's a really unique one. A park ranger, Ron Simonson, clarifies. Methuselah, a bristlecone pine, is the name given to it. Ron responds, "Because like Methuselah from the Bible, this tree is very old, in fact one of the ancient forms of life on Earth," to my apparent query. Ron responds, "Basically, Methuselah has been around throughout virtually all of documented human history," to my logical next inquiry. I take another look at this plain tree and start to see it deserves a lot of attention.

Bristlecone pines grow relatively slowly due to their cold environment, short summers, nutrient-poor, dry soil, exposure to strong winds, and long, dreary winters. They do, however, age as all pines do, growing slightly thicker each year when a new growth ring is added to their trunk. Methuselah was 4,842 years old as of 2011, which means that it sprouted first as a seedling in 2832 BC, thousands of years earlier the ancient Egyptians started to construct their pyramids. By numbering these, we can reliably state this. And that's just one interesting fact about the pine tree, which is a well-known species of tree.

The vast majority of the Northern Hemisphere is home to pine trees. Methuselah himself, which is found growing in the peaks of the White Mountains in Northern California, is one of many species that have adapted to the challenging circumstances of high elevations and latitudes.

There are more than 100 different types of pines, which range in size from tiny Siberian dwarf pines to enormous Ponderosa pines in the wilds of Oregon. In the more temperate regions of the Southern Hemisphere, where they have been introduced, they are now commonly planted and are a common sight in parks and gardens. It wouldn't be an overstatement to claim that practically everyone is familiar with pines.

There are undoubtedly numerous distinguishing features about these trees. They typically have needle-like leaves, an evergreen appearance, and a strong, pleasant "pine smell." They frequently grow to be imposingly large trees with thick, scaly bark and consistently yield their unique pine cones. These forms are definitely not straightforward. Even when they emerge on the same tree, they can be either male (little, unnoticeable, and dropping pollen) or female (big, woody, and bearing seeds). On the female, they have several scales organised in a spiral with seeds concealed inside. The seeds eventually escape as the cone opens and are primarily carried by the wind or occasionally by birds as they are distributed. In certain species, the cones are closed until a forest fire melts the resin that holds them together.

The requirement for wildfires for regeneration is the final interesting point about many pine species. Extensive forests of pines can develop in fire-prone environments; 'pine barrens'

are a good example. Due to the frequent natural (typically lightning-induced) fires that weed out the less fire-tolerant plants, these ecoregions are characterised by sandy, nutrient-poor soil that is dominated by pines. It is somewhat regrettable that many pine species are no longer found in the wild as a result of current fire protection techniques, and the majority of historic pine barrens are now being overtaken by other forest plants.

For residential and commercial use, where pines are now fairly widespread, the situation is completely different. These trees are popular for commercial plantations because they grow quickly, can be planted in close proximity to one another, and provide wood that is beautiful and simple to shape. Since the wood is fragrant yet prone to decay, indoor or dry carpentry is where it excels rather than outside, where more durable kinds are required. The branches of pine trees are prized for use as Christmas trees, and their wood is also pulped in factories for the manufacturing of paper and chipboard. As a byproduct, pine resin is gathered and utilised to make turpentine, a crucial industrial solvent.

In a more domestic sense, the cones—the biggest of which are frequently used by kids and crafters—might be what people like the most. Pines are found all over the Northern Hemisphere, and as a result, cones are a common component of the diverse traditional cultures there. Cones can be utilised as decorations, fire starters, bird feeders, or even just fascinating natural toys for young children. Many people regret the displacement of cones by contemporary manufactured toys in the wealthier of these nations, however some Nordic communities still provide traditional "cone-craft" classes in high schools.

I constantly go back to Methuselah for some reason. Ron shares a tale with me. A student was coring a nearby bristlecone pine in 1964 in order to collect a sample. The tree was cut down in order to allow dating by looking at a cross-section of its trunk after his coring tool broke. As a result, 4,844 rings were counted, which revealed that the tree was more ancient than Methuselah, much to everyone's surprise. Ron grinned sarcastically at the idea. "We destroyed the most ancient life on Earth intentionally." That is one of the reasons we don't reveal Methuselah's exact location. This tree must remain untouched by humans at all costs since it is valuable.

Pine Tree IELTS Reading Questions

Questions 1-4

Complete the sentences given below.

For each answer, choose **NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS** from the passage.

1. Pine trees grow another _____ each year.
2. _____ was constructed hundreds of years before the pyramids.
3. All pines share the same _____.
4. Pine wood is not particularly _____.

Questions 5-8

Do the following claims support the details provided in Reading Passage? Write-

TRUE	if the statement agrees with the information
FALSE	if the statement contradicts the information
NOT GIVEN	If there is no information on this

5. The biggest trees are ponderosa pines.
6. Most people are acquainted with pines.
7. Pine seed is typically distributed by birds.
8. Pine barrens take advantage of lightning storms.

Questions 9-11

Select **THREE** answers from the list, and then next to each question, write the appropriate letter (**A–F**).

Which **THREE** of the following groups **A–F**,

Prefer pine trees the most?

- A. Plantation owners
- B. outdoor carpenters
- C. craft enthusiasts
- D. members of some native communities
- E. owners of factories
- F. who use turpentine

Questions 12 and 13

Pick the right letter from **A - D**.

12. a pine cone is
 - A. difficult.
 - B. masculine.
 - C. essentially the same size.
 - D. often used as toys in developed nations.
13. Methuselah is
 - A. age of 4,842 years.
 - B. record-breaking old tree.
 - C. visited by tourists.
 - D. is not exposed to much sunlight.

Pine Tree reading answers with explanation

The **Pine Tree reading answers** with explanations are given below.

(Note: The language highlighted in bold refers to the passage's location and answer. The explanatory sentences from the reading passage are shown in italics.)

1. *Growth ring*

Answer Location: Paragraph 2, Line 3.

Explanation: *It is clearly stated in the third line of the paragraph that, “growing slightly thicker each year when a new growth ring is added to their trunk”*

Therefore, Pine trees grow another growth ring each year.

2. *Methuselah sprouted*

Answer Location: Paragraph 2, Line 4.

Explanation: *The information provided in the paragraph, “Methuselah was 4,842 years old as of 2011, which means that it sprouted first as a seedling in 2832 BC, thousands of years earlier the ancient Egyptians started to construct their pyramids” depicts that Methuselah, a tree, was 4,842 years old as of 2011 based on the number of growth rings. This indicates that it was a seedling when the ancient Egyptian pyramids were not yet built, or about 2832 BC.*

3. *(Pine) Cones*

Answer Location: Paragraph C, Line 3.

Explanation: *The line clearly depicts that, “They frequently grow to be imposingly large trees with thick, scaly bark and consistently yield their unique pine cones.” In this account, all pines share the same Pine Cones*

4. *Durable*

Answer Location: Paragraph 7, Line 4.

Explanation: *The fourth line of the paragraph says that, “Since the wood is fragrant yet prone to decay, indoor or dry carpentry is where it excels rather than outside, where more durable kinds are required.” It implies that Pine wood is not particularly durable.*

5. *Not Given*

Answer Location: Not available

Explanation: *There is no context for the following sentence and it is not included in the text.*

6. *True*

Answer Location: Paragraph 8, Line 1.

Explanation: *It is clearly mentioned in the paragraph, “the cones—the biggest of which are frequently used by kids and crafters—might be what people like the most. Hence, the statement, Most people are acquainted with pines is correct.*

7. False

Answer Location: Paragraph 5, Line 7.

Explanation: *In the paragraph it is stated that, "The seeds eventually escape as the cone opens and are primarily carried by the wind or occasionally as they are dispersed, by birds. Accordingly, it is untrue to say that birds typically disperse pine seeds.*

8. True

Answer Location: Paragraph 6, Line 1.

Explanation: *It is illustrated in the text that, "The requirement for wildfires for regeneration is the final interesting point about many pine species. Extensive forests of pines can develop in fire-prone environments; 'pine barrens' are a good example. Thus, the statement, Pine barrens take advantage of lightning storms is correct.*

9. A

Answer Location: Paragraph 7, Line 2.

Explanation: *The passage's phrases paint a vivid picture that the plantation owner prefers pine trees the most as "These trees are popular for commercial plantations because they grow quickly, can be planted in close proximity to one another, and provide wood that is beautiful and simple to shape".*

10. C

Answer Location: Paragraph 8, Line 1.

Explanation: *The passage's phrases, "In a more domestic sense, the cones—the biggest of which are frequently used by kids and crafters—might be what people like the most". Therefore, the craft enthusiasts also preferred pine trees the most.*

11. D

Answer Location: Paragraph 8, Line 1.

Explanation: *The sentence reveals the information that, "Many people regret the displacement of cones by contemporary manufactured toys in the wealthier of these nations, however some Nordic communities still provide high schools' conventional "cone-craft" courses. This means some indigenous groups' members.*

12. A

Answer Location: Paragraph 5, Line 4.

Explanation: *According to the paragraph the pine cone forms are definitely not straightforward. Thus, the correct answer is A, which means that a pine cone is difficult.*

13. D

Answer Location: Paragraph 9, Last Line.

Explanation: *As per the paragraph, "That is one of the reasons we don't reveal Methuselah's exact location. This tree must remain untouched by humans at all*

costs since it is valuable.” *This suggests that Methuselah is not exposed to sunlight.*