These days the closest people get to enjoying nature is seeing pictures of it on their Iphones, scrolling quickly past it on Facebook or Instagram, making cooing noises at the wonderful scenery then getting back to cat videos. The love of the outdoors has sadly drained away from our society and is disappearing. With each generation fewer and fewer people enjoy the majesty of the outdoors and as we care less we allow it to be damaged, demolished and destroyed. We build over green spaces throwing houses and shopping centres up, we cut down the world’s trees and we pollute the atmosphere with our cars, our aerosols and our carbon spewing factories.

It is clear that we need to rejuvenate and revitalise our love of nature. Children need to experience the green, airy world which lives around them and in Scotland we have an abundance of riches. The Scottish Highlands are covered in a luscious carpet of green with trees stretching up to the sky and mountains poking their peaks inquisitively through the clouds. Loch Ness is much more than just a hiding place for Nessie. The beautiful, natural coast skirts round a large, deep, freshwater loch which is home to a number of fish species. Our islands, which sit just off the top of our mainland, have a distinct culture and set of traditions mixed with magnificent views and coastlines.

The sad thing is that these natural wonders are ignored by the majority of our young people who would rather spend their time indoors, crammed into their dark rooms being hypnotised by their phones and computers. Their seductive screens call to them like sirens, tantalising and tempting them to stay focused on their bright displays and remain anchored in their house rather than venture outside to experience the splendour of nature.

However, while many may complain about the lack of interest in wildlife there are people in the know who want us to refrain from planting more trees.

[Scotland](https://www.theguardian.com/uk/scotland)’s mountaineers and gamekeepers have rarely seen eye to eye. But now they have put their differences behind them to oppose an apparently harmless (and dare we say sensible?) plan that they both say threatens the country’s landscape: a proposal to plant thousands of new trees. These two groups regularly come into conflict over their beliefs. Game keepers are annoyed at mountaineers and walkers who trudge over their land trampling wildlife while Mountaineering Scotland believe that they should be able to enjoy nature freely without restrictions as long as they are careful. So why do they believe more trees mean more problems?

In the letter addressed to the Scottish environment minister, Roseanna Cunningham, the two bodies said there has so far been a failure to come up with a plan which adds trees without impacting on valuable landscapes and ecosystems. They say: “While Scotland’s open landscapes and upland moors are classed as rare in global terms, there is currently no policy position safeguarding them. Some areas are designated as of special ecological or scenic interest but most are unprotected and disregarded.”

While these groups oppose planning more trees they are doing it for the sake of maintaining Scotland’s nature and greenery. They recognise the importance of our beautiful vistas, amazing mountains and luscious lakes. They know that our wildlife is rare and beautiful and that we offer a unique and exciting tourist destination for those looking to experience the world before builders and factories destroyed it and social media imprisoned inside and chained us to our devices.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | Re-read lines 1 -7 How does the writer’s language convey his dislike for modern society’s treatment of nature? | 4 |
| 2 | Re-read lines 8 – 14. In your own words describe the places the writer likes in Scotland and explain why.  | 3 |
| 3 | In lines 8 – 14, how does the writer’s language convey his belief that Scotland has “an abundance of riches”? | 4 |
| 4 | Re-read lines 15 – 18.How does the writer’s language show the writer’s dislike for how the majority of young people spend their time? | 2 |
| 5 | What is the function of lines 19 - 20? | 2 |
| 6 | Re-read lines 21 - 31 In your own words explain the argument put forward by Game keepers and Mountaineering Scotland for not planting more trees.  | 2 |
| 7 | How effective is the final paragraph as a conclusion to the passage? | 3 |