# C1 Seviye İngilizce Okuma Metni: Rewilding: Letting Nature Take the Lead

WORKSHEET

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Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

## A Read the text and choose

Read the text. Then choose the best answer. *(Metni okuyun ve her soru için en uygun seçeneği işaretleyin.)*

For much of the twentieth century, nature conservation meant protecting what was left: fencing off reserves, saving individual species and managing landscapes to keep them as they were. In recent decades, however, a more ambitious approach has gained ground. Known as rewilding, it aims not merely to preserve ecosystems but to restore the natural processes that shape them, and then, as far as possible, to step back and let nature take the lead.

The most celebrated example comes from Yellowstone National Park in the United States. Wolves had been eliminated from the park by the 1920s, and in their absence the elk population grew dramatically. The elk browsed heavily on young willow and aspen trees, particularly along rivers. In 1995, wolves were reintroduced. Over the following years, researchers reported that elk numbers fell and that the animals began avoiding certain open areas, allowing trees to recover in places. The return of the trees was linked to the return of beavers and songbirds, and some even claimed that the wolves had changed the shape of the rivers themselves. This chain of effects, in which a predator at the top of the food web influences the entire ecosystem, is known as a trophic cascade.

The Yellowstone story is powerful, but scientists caution that it has sometimes been oversimplified. Other factors, including hunting by humans, drought and the growing number of bears, also affected elk populations, and the recovery of vegetation has been patchy rather than universal. Ecosystems, it turns out, rarely respond in neat, predictable ways.

Rewilding also raises difficult social questions. Farmers who live alongside reintroduced predators may lose livestock, and they understandably resent decisions made by distant officials or environmental organisations. Critics further argue that the idea of returning land to some earlier, wilder state is problematic, because landscapes have been shaped by human activity for thousands of years. Which past, they ask, are we trying to restore? Supporters respond that rewilding is not about recreating history but about rebuilding resilience: giving ecosystems the complexity they need to adapt to a changing climate. Increasingly, successful projects are those that involve local communities from the start and that offer them tangible benefits, such as income from nature tourism.

1. How does rewilding differ from traditional conservation?

   a) It focuses only on saving individual species.
   b) It aims to restore natural processes and then step back.
   c) It removes all predators from reserves.
   d) It keeps landscapes exactly as they are.
   e) It is mainly about building fences.

2. What happened in Yellowstone after wolves disappeared?

   a) Trees spread rapidly along rivers.
   b) Beavers became more common.
   c) The elk population grew dramatically.
   d) Bears left the park.
   e) Rivers changed course.

3. What is a trophic cascade?

   a) A chain of effects caused by a top predator throughout an ecosystem
   b) A type of waterfall in national parks
   c) A method of counting elk
   d) A drought that affects plants
   e) A programme for reintroducing beavers

4. Why do scientists say the Yellowstone story has been oversimplified?

   a) Wolves were never reintroduced.
   b) Elk numbers actually increased.
   c) Other factors also affected elk, and vegetation recovery was patchy.
   d) The park is too small to study.
   e) Beavers caused the changes alone.

5. According to the text, which projects tend to be successful?

   a) Those run only by distant officials
   b) Those that avoid local communities
   c) Those that recreate a specific historical period
   d) Those that remove farmers from the land
   e) Those that involve local communities and offer them benefits

## B Vocabulary

Match the words from the text with their Turkish meanings. *(Metindeki kelimeleri Türkçe anlamlarıyla eşleştirin.)*

| | |
|---|---|
| 1. ambitious | a) yok etmek, ortadan kaldırmak |
| 2. eliminate | b) içerlemek, kızmak |
| 3. predator | c) iddialı, hırslı |
| 4. patchy | d) dayanıklılık, toparlanma gücü |
| 5. resent | e) yırtıcı hayvan |
| 6. resilience | f) düzensiz, yer yer |

## C Complete the sentences

Complete the sentences from the text. Use the words in the box. *(Metindeki cümleleri kutudaki kelimelerle tamamlayın.)*

**browsed • crops • ground • livestock • predictable • random**

1. In recent decades, however, a more ambitious approach has gained _____ .
2. The elk _____ heavily on young willow and aspen trees.
3. Ecosystems, it turns out, rarely respond in neat, _____ ways.
4. Farmers who live alongside reintroduced predators may lose _____ .

## D Your turn

Write a short answer based on the text. *(Metne dayanarak kısa bir cevap yazın.)*

1. Should a rewilding project reintroduce a large predator (for example, wolves or lynx) to a region of Turkey? Discuss the benefits and the concerns, and give your own view.