

WARM UP

1 Complete the food chain and give an example of each category.

Primary producers:

(1) \_\_\_\_\_

Primary consumers:

(2) \_\_\_\_\_

Secondary consumers:

(3) \_\_\_\_\_

(4) \_\_\_\_\_

(5) \_\_\_\_\_

(6) \_\_\_\_\_

GLOSSARY

landscape: *paesaggio*  
 assessment: *valutazione*  
 broaden: *ampliare*  
 amenities: *attrattive*

## Ecosystems in the UK

### Government plans to make developers consider financial value of nature

New homes, supermarkets and other developments will have to consider the financial value of nature such as woodlands and parks, under new plans presented by the British Government. Ministers and local authorities will be able to take environmental factors into account in their decision-making, with a view to improving the protection of biodiversity and other ‘ecosystem services’.



The UK’s National Eco-System Assessment will set a value on natural ecosystems and the ‘services’ they provide from clean water to leisure and recreation.

With this study, they want to fully understand the economic value of the natural world, and also see how best to measure the cultural and emotional benefit people get from walks in the countryside or taking in views of wonderful landscape. Of course, much of what is valued in nature cannot be calculated in pounds and pence, and must be measured using different parameters.

This assessment, which will take two years to complete at a cost of about £1.8 million, should help to broaden the government’s understanding of natural capital, from woodlands to rivers and coastlines.

Cultural values will also be important – officials will try to put a value on the amenities of parks, areas of natural beauty and leisure areas, so that the UK’s natural environment is properly valued and protected.

ACTIVITIES

READING COMPREHENSION

2 **PET** Read the article and decide if the statements below are true (T) or false (F).

- 1 New supermarkets will have to pay for parks to be created around their buildings.
- 2 Clean water is considered a service provided by an ecosystem.
- 3 They are worried about people getting too emotional when they walk in the countryside.
- 4 You cannot put a price on the value of nature.
- 5 Rivers are an example of ‘natural capital’.
- 6 Officials will also take into account what parks have to offer in their evaluation of an area.

T	F
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

WRITING

3 **PET** Think of an area in your country which you would consider as ‘natural capital’ and write a short description (about 100 words) of it, giving details of what ecosystem services and benefits (clean drinking water, timber, habitat for fisheries, pollination, decomposition of wastes, etc.) it provides.