



Read the passage carefully. Then answer the questions using details from the text.

Wangari Maathai: Planting Trees, Empowering Women



Wangari Maathai grew up in rural Kenya, surrounded by lush forests and clean rivers. She noticed how much her homeland changed over time. Forests were cut down for farms and fuel, and rivers dried up. This made life harder for many people, especially women who relied on natural resources for their families. Maathai understood that protecting the environment was crucial for the well-being of her community and country.

In 1977, Maathai started the Green Belt Movement. Her idea was simple but powerful: empower women in rural areas to plant trees. She believed that by working together, ordinary people could restore their environment. The movement provided tree seedlings and taught women how to plant and care for them. This not only helped the environment but also gave women a way to earn a small income and improve their families' lives.

The Green Belt Movement grew rapidly. Women planted trees to stop soil erosion, provide firewood, and offer shade. These new forests also helped to bring back wildlife and clean water sources. Maathai often faced challenges from the government for her activism, but she never gave up. She saw tree planting as a way to promote peace and democracy, as it encouraged people to take control of their own futures.

Under Maathai's leadership, the Green Belt Movement planted over 51 million trees across Kenya. Her efforts gained international attention, showing the world how local action could lead to global change. In 2004, Wangari Maathai made history by becoming



the first African woman to win the Nobel Peace Prize. The Nobel Committee recognized her work for sustainable development, democracy, and peace.

Wangari Maathai's legacy continues to inspire people worldwide. She showed that one person, with a clear vision and the support of a community, can make an enormous difference. Her work reminds us that caring for our planet and empowering people go hand in hand.



COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

(1) **What is the main idea of this passage?**

- (A) Wangari Maathai created the Green Belt Movement to help women plant trees and heal the land.
- (B) Wangari Maathai won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2004.
- (C) It is important for people to care about their environment.
- (D) Women in Kenya learned how to earn money by farming.

(2) **Which detail best supports the main idea?**

- (A) Wangari Maathai noticed that forests were being cut down in Kenya.
- (B) The Green Belt Movement taught women how to plant trees and care for them.
- (C) Wangari Maathai traveled to many countries to share her ideas.
- (D) She became the first African woman to win the Nobel Peace Prize.

(3) **What would be the best title for this passage?**

- (A) Wangari Maathai: A Vision for a Greener Kenya



- B The History of Tree Planting
- C Famous Women Who Won Prizes
- D How Kenya's Rivers Dried Up

(4) Which sentence does NOT belong in this passage?

- A The Green Belt Movement helped women earn income and improve their lives.
- B Wangari Maathai studied in the United States before returning to Kenya.
- C Over 51 million trees were planted across Kenya by the movement.
- D Maathai believed that protecting the environment was crucial for her community.

(5) Write the main idea in TWO sentences. Include one supporting detail.

