

Two Truths & A Lie

An activity of "Why floating gardens are a good idea"

Climate change is adversely affecting the livelihood of many. "Why floating gardens are a good idea" (page 16–17, *What's Up* August 2021) describes how the farmers in some of the poorer countries have come up with innovative ways to overcome this problem. Read it carefully. Then, work in pairs on this activity.

1. Given below are five sets of three statements each. One statement in **each set** is a **lie**. Mark the **lie** with a "**X**" in the box next to it. Use a red pen to correct the lie by editing that statement.

Set A	<input type="checkbox"/> a. The floating garden is a form of hydroponics or soil-less culture. <input type="checkbox"/> b. In Bangladesh, local farmers weave and layer water on iron frames to grow their crops. <input type="checkbox"/> c. Some farmers also keep fish in iron cages under their floating farms.
Set B	<input type="checkbox"/> a. In countries like Bangladesh, which get abundant rainfall and are often waterlogged, growing crops the traditional way is a challenge. <input type="checkbox"/> b. Water hyacinths are floating plants. They rise and fall with the water level, just like rafts. This makes them suitable for building a floating base on which plants and vegetables can be grown even during floods. <input type="checkbox"/> c. The water hyacinths in the floating gardens eventually decompose and become a nuisance.
Set C	<input type="checkbox"/> a. Floating gardens was adopted to provide food security and supplementary income for marginalised communities. <input type="checkbox"/> b. Floating gardens is a recent discovery that has helped many nations such as Bangladesh and Cambodia. <input type="checkbox"/> c. The United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization has named Bangladesh's floating gardens a Globally Important Agricultural Heritage System.
Set D	<input type="checkbox"/> a. Floating gardens create a reliable food supply in water-logged areas and improve the living standards of the communities around them. <input type="checkbox"/> b. Landless farmers in such areas can afford to rent 20 square metres of buoyant floating land for 4-5 months, for about S\$8. <input type="checkbox"/> c. However, Cambodian farmers prefer their original traditional rice cultivation to the alternative floating farms as their earnings were much higher before.
Set E	<input type="checkbox"/> a. Changing weather patterns, and prolonged and frequent storms due to climate change have made it difficult for fisherman to go out to sea. <input type="checkbox"/> b. In waterlogged areas of India, Mexico, and Myanmar, floating gardens present a way to keep producing food, providing means, and offering a balanced diet to families. <input type="checkbox"/> c. A disadvantage of the floating garden is that it is very complex to create and requires technical assistance from governments and other agencies to set it up.