



INSTITUT NATIONAL  
DE L'INFORMATION  
GEOGRAPHIQUE  
ET FORESTIERE

**EXAMEN PROFESSIONNEL POUR L'ACCES DES GEOMETRES DE L'INSTITUT  
NATIONAL DE L'INFORMATION GEOGRAPHIQUE ET FORESTIERE AU CORPS  
DES INGENIEURS DES TRAVAUX GEOGRAPHIQUES ET CARTOGRAPHIQUES DE  
L'ETAT**

**SESSION 2012**

**EPREUVE DE COMPOSITION FRANÇAISE**

**Durée : 3 heures**

**AUCUN DOCUMENT AUTORISE**

**SUJET :**

Dans son essai *Le Tiers-Instruit*, Michel Serres affirme « Il faut fréquenter les bibliothèques, certes ; il convient, assurément, de se faire savant. Étudiez, travaillez, il en restera toujours quelque chose. Et après ? Pour qu'il existe un après, je veux dire quelque avenir qui dépasse la copie, sortez de la bibliothèque pour courir au grand air ; si vous demeurez dedans, vous n'écrirez jamais que des livres faits de livres. Ce savoir, excellent, concourt à l'instruction, mais celle-ci a pour but autre chose qu'elle-même. Dehors, vous courrez une autre chance. »

Après avoir analysé cette citation, vous tenterez, dans un développement argumenté et construit, de définir ce qui constitue pour vous la source majeure de l'apprentissage dans l'existence.

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DE L'ETAT**

**SESSION 2012**

**EPREUVE FACULTATIVE DE LANGUE  
VERSION D'ANGLAIS  
Durée : 1 heure 30**

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**CONSIGNE :**

**Traduire en français le texte, titre inclus**

## Cruel or eco-friendly: is fur the ultimate sustainable material?

Renewable, natural and long-lasting, some claim that it's time for us to take another look at real fur - or maybe even embrace it. But as Ruth Stokes found out, not everyone is convinced

It was on the A/W12 catwalks; it's in the shops and can probably even be spotted on a high street near you. According to the British Fur Trade Association (BTFA), global sales have never been better: fur is back with a vengeance. Still, while some eco-fashionistas are happy to wear vintage, the same can't be said for other types of fur with animal cruelty and petroleum by-products among the reasons to avoid them. Meanwhile, the fur debate, whether vintage or not, is still raging. But are we missing a trick? Is fur the ultimate renewable, eco-friendly material? Or is it as cruel as activists would have us believe?



Many in the fur industry argue that not only is it a natural, sustainable resource, it's also a way of helping to control populations of wild species that might otherwise put native wildlife at risk. The Fur Council of Canada claims that: 'Fur is a natural, sustainable, renewable resource. We only use part of what nature produces each year without depleting wildlife populations or damaging natural habitats that sustain them. The goal is to maintain long-term ecological balance.' Fur processing, it maintains, is carefully regulated to protect the environment. In addition, fur tanning and colouring are relatively benign (in contrast to leather) and only small quantities of formaldehyde are used. Fake fur, on the other hand, uses up to one gallon of petroleum - a non-renewable resource - to produce three synthetic jackets.

(...)

'The terminology "renewable material" is interesting for the fur industry to be using,' she says. 'The term is misleading and the fur industry needs to come up with a better communications tool to support their claims that fur supports the environment and ecosystems - especially farmed fur.' She adds that while some countries have laws and regulations to put a standard in place, this differs from country to country, and implementing such laws can be a challenge in places like India where the work is done in rural areas. 'Questions that come to mind are: how water-intensive is it, what chemicals are used and are they safe for the environment and humans, how are the chemicals used to prepare the fur disposed of (is it safe?), how has the culling<sup>1</sup> of animals affected the biodiversity of the landscape, how are the parts not used disposed of, and what is the environmental impact of farming (methane, food, carbon, vegetation, etc.) and keeping the animals?'

(...)

It's undeniable, however, that the fashion world is still very much in thrall<sup>2</sup> of fur. The argument that fur is a renewable, eco-friendly material is an appealing one - and is, on the most basic level, true, especially when animals such as rabbits that are already part of the meat industry are taken into account. But once the processes and chemicals needed to make it wearable are factored in, it gets rather more complicated. One thing, at least, is clear: the industry's claims to sustainability are not quite as glossy as they first appear.

*The Ecologist*, 3 June 2012

1. to cull = to massacre
2. thrall = fascination