

Year 3 Geography Unit - Saving the World!



Context

Our world is the perfect place for us to live, full of varied and amazing places. Rainforests are hot and wet all year and are home to half of all species (types) of living things on Earth. Although they are distant, our actions in the UK can destroy these precious places and we must all work to save them!

Key vocabulary and places

Tropical rainforests - these forests are hot and wet all year round and receive over 2m of rainfall in a year! Over 3 million of the world's species live in rainforests.

The largest rainforests in the world are the **Amazon in South America, Congo in Africa and in East Asia.**

Rainforest structure - plants grow at different heights in the rainforest, because they all need different amounts of light. These form layers called a structure:

Emergent layer - The tallest trees 40-50m tall are at the top.

Canopy layer - Most trees are this height and together they cover and shade everything below.

Understory - Trees this height are still growing or just shorter species.

Shrub layer and forest floor - bushes and small plants grow here close to the ground.

Food pyramid - a diagram of food chains that leads to a small number of top predators.

Photosynthesis - the process where plants produce oxygen. Rainforests make 30% of the oxygen we need.

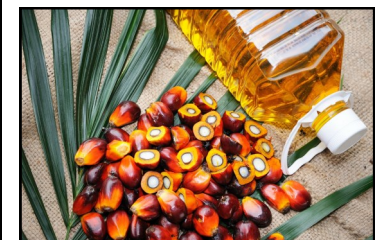
Deforestation - when trees are cut down for wood or so that land can be used.

Palm oil - this is an oil that is used as an ingredient in thousands of products e.g. food, shampoo and lipstick. Half of all packaged supermarket products contain it. It is cheap and grows on oil palm trees.

The problem with palm oil is that huge areas of rainforest in East Asian countries, like Malaysia, are cut down to plant these trees.

Geography Skills

- Look at images of two places and begin to make conclusions about them.
- Identify features on aerial photos.
- Ask questions about places based on atlases, books, maps and photos
- Locate places in atlases and other large scale maps by matching boundaries.
- Match boundaries of places on maps of different scales.



Something to reflect on...

What would be the consequences, for the world, of losing half of the rainforests? Why?

How often do your actions affect the tropical rainforests?

What could you do at home to help save the world?