Raving Rainforests - Knowledge



Fabulous Facts

Coverage - Rainforests cover approximately 6% of the Earth's surface by containing more than half of the world's plants. About 90% of organisms are found in the canopy.

Wildlife - About 30 millions species of plants and animals live in tropical rainforests.

Types of Rainforests - There are two types of rainforests; tropical and temperate. Tropical rainforests are generally warmer than temperate ones.

Products - Many things we have in our homes come from rainforests including chocolate, sugar, rubber, bamboo and many

Devastating Deforestation

Deforestation is the action of clearing a wide area of trees.

Causes of Deforestation

- 1. To clear space for farming: growing crops (eg. Soya beans and palm oil) and space cattle to generate cheap beef.
- 2. 2. Chopping down trees for wood.
- 3. 3. To build roads to mine for metals, gold and diamonds.
- 4. To dig for oil.
- 5. To flood areas to make dams and generate electricity.

Impact of Deforestation

- 1. An area the size of 20 football pitches is destroyed every 60 seconds.
- 2. Half of the tropical rainforests we had are gone.
- 3. 28000 species of animals are expected to become extinct in the next 25 years.
- 4. Local people's homes are destroyed.
- 5. Levels of carbon dioxide in the air are increasing and oxygen is decreasing

Know your Knowledge!

Rainforest - A dense forest, normally found in tropical areas with high rainfall. They generate much of the world's oxygen

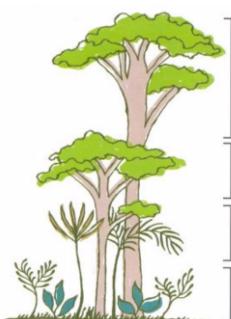
Equator - imaginary line through the middle of the Earth that receives the most sunlight.

The **Northern Hemisphere** - the half of Earth that is **north** of the Equator.

The Southern Hemisphere - the half of Earth that is **south** of the Equator.

Time zone - a geographic region within which the same standard time is used.

Climate zones - The weather changes in different parts of the world.



Leafy Luscious Layers

Emergent Layer - Giants trees that enjoy the most sun but high winds and cold.

Canopy - dense layer of trees overlapping each other. Home to most animals in rainforests.

Understory - Relatively dark, open area below the canopy

Undergrowth - Also known as the forest floor, mainly consisting of fallen leaves, fruit etc. that decomposes as food for