

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. Chopping down trees for wood.
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

