

Why Are Rainforests so Important?

Rainforests cover only 6% of the Earth but they are home to 50% of all plant and animal species. In just four square miles you might find: 1,500 flowering plants, 400 species of birds, 750 species of trees, 150 species of butterflies and much more.

Rainforests are often known as the 'lungs of the Earth'. The trees absorb harmful carbon dioxide and produce 20% of the oxygen in Earth's atmosphere and 25% of medicines come from plants found in the rainforest.



Key Vocabulary

deforestation

species

loggers

habitat

climate

soil erosion

What Is Deforestation?

Deforestation occurs when trees are cut down across a wide area which is then permanently cleared for another use.



Did You Know...?

Every 20 minutes, an area of rainforest the size of 20 football pitches is cut down. If this rate continues, there will be no rainforests in 100 years.

What Are the Effects of Deforestation?

Climate change: Scientists believe deforestation has a worldwide effect on climate. Trees store carbon dioxide. When they are cut down, carbon dioxide builds up in the atmosphere and is known as a greenhouse gas which causes global warming.

Soil erosion: Tree roots help hold the soil and prevent it being washed away. Without trees, the soil is washed into rivers and streams, blocking them, causing flooding and contaminated drinking water.

Lack of biodiversity: The number of different species becomes smaller.

Droughts: Trees are an important part of the water cycle. Without them, there will be a lack of rain.

Habitat loss: Animals and plants lose their home so some may become endangered or extinct.



Your task

You will be writing a persuasive letter to loggers and pleading with them to stop destroying the rainforest.

Writing outcome: Persuasive letter

Audience: loggers (people who are cutting down the rainforest)

Purpose: to save the trees in the rainforest.

What to include:

- ***connectives such as: however, therefore, furthermore.***
- ***powerful adjectives***
- ***include rhetorical questions to make the reader think.***
- ***each point to have facts and evidence to support it***

We look forward to reading your letters!