

# Rainforest Rangers



## Key Vocabulary

Rainforest	A dense forest, normally found in tropical areas with high rainfall. They generate much of the world's oxygen.
Country	A nation with its own government.
Continent	A large solid area of land. The Earth has 7 continents: Asia, Africa, North America, South America, Antarctica, Europe, Australasia.
Ecosystem	A community of plants and animals that depend on each other to survive.
Deforestation	The action of clearing a wide area of trees.
Habitat	The natural home or environment of an animal, plant or organism.
Equator	Imaginary line through the middle of the Earth that receives most sunlight.
Emergent layer	Giant trees that enjoy the most sun but high winds and cold.
Canopy	Dense layer of trees overlapping each other. Home to most animals in the rainforest.
Understory	Relatively dark, open area below the canopy.
Undergrowth	Also known as the forest floor, mainly consisting of fallen leaves, fruit etc. that decomposes (rots) as food for trees and animals.
Endangered	As species of plant or animal seriously at risk of extinction.
Extinction	When no more individuals of a particular animal or plant are alive ANYWHERE in the world .

## Impact of Deforestation

1.	An area the size of 20 football pitches is destroyed every 60 seconds.
2.	½ of the tropical rainforests we had are gone.
3.	28,000 species of animals are expected to become extinct in the next 25 years.
4.	Levels of carbon dioxide in the air are increasing and oxygen is decreasing.
5.	At the current rate of deforestation, there will be no rainforests left in 100 years.

## Causes of Deforestation

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

## Animals of the Rainforest

Mountain Gorilla	
Jaguar	
3-toed Sloth	
Scarlet Macaw	

## Interesting Facts

1.	Rainforests cover approximately 6% of the Earth's surface.
2.	Rainforests contain more than ½ of the world's plants.
3.	About 90% of organisms are found in the canopy.
4.	About 30 million species of plants and animals live in tropical rainforests.
5.	There are two types of rainforests- <b>TROPICAL</b> and <b>TEMPERATE</b> . Tropical rainforests are generally warmer than temperate ones.
6.	Many things we have in our homes come from rainforests including: chocolate, sugar, rubber, bamboo and many medicines.
7.	Tropic of Cancer and Tropic of Capricorn are imaginary lines north and south of the equator. Most rainforests can be found between these two lines.



