

Escuela Superior
de Tizayuca

ACTIVITY BOOK

TROPICAL RAINFOREST

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TIZAYUCA, DICIEMBRE 2022

EXERCISES

Chapter 1

Why is there such an abundance of life in the rainforests? Give an example of the interdependent 'chains' of life

Chapter 2

Why is the rainforest so tall?

How do some of the smaller plants survive?

What is the soil on the floor of the rainforest like?

Chapter 3

What kinds of creatures inhabit the canopy of the rain- forest?

How have they survived so long without interference from scientists?

How does the middle storey of the forest differ from the canopy?

What are the 'gliders' of the middle storey?

What place do the termites of the forest floor have in the food chain?

What kinds of larger animals inhabit the forest floor?

Chapter 4

How do the forest people manage to get food from the high canopy?

What has happened to the forest people since the arrival of settlers?

What kind of future do the forest people seem to have?

EXERCISES

Chapter 5

Give some examples of products in your home that originate in the tropical rainforests.

What future uses of the forests have been suggested?

How and why are people destroying the forests?

What effects is their destruction having on (a) surrounding farmlands (b) global weather patterns (c) the atmosphere (d) life in the forest?

Chapter 6

Why do many tropical countries fail to respond to pressure from (foreign) conservationists?

Why is it difficult for countries to act in isolation?

What is the purpose of hardwood plantations?

In what way does Korup represent a viable alternative to destruction?

GLOSSARY

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2 **abundant** (adj): plentiful, producing a lot In addition to the heavy rainfall, there is abundant sunshine."

12 **agile** (adj): able to move quickly and easily We will have a world without slow-moving sloths and agile gibbons.'

10 **algae** (n): a very simple type of plant, usually growing in water or wet conditions

'Another strange feature.. is green algae, small green plants which grow on [the sloth's] hair.'

21 **antiseptic** (n): medicine becoming infected to prevent wounds becoming infected

'Some antiseptics . . . are made from the of sap South American plants.'

8 **ape** (n): a class of animals like large monkeys, but without tails

[They] found the canopy crowded with life. There were monkeys and apes, sloths and squirrels...'

36 **approach** (n): a way of solving a problem

'In this area a new type of approach towards the cultivation of crops has been introduced.'

17 **appropriately** (adv): suitably

'Indians also use poisons found in the skin of certain tree frogs (called, appropriately, arrow- poison frogs)'

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24 **avert** (v): to prevent

"Thanks to an apparently insignificant wild plant, famine was averted."

5 **bacteria** (n): tiny creatures which live in the air, soil, water or animals

"... bacteria thrive in the moist conditions."

19 **barricade** (n): obstacles built across roads, made of any easily available material

"[They] set up barricades to prevent the logging companies moving their bulldozers into the forest."

1 **bat** (n): a small flying mammal

'One species of bat feeds on the tree.'

28 **brink** (n): edge

"... cures for many illnesses may be on the brink of extinction without ever having been discovered."

4 **bromeliad** (n): large tropical plant

"... bromeliads arrange their leaves to catch and store water."

12 **brood** (n): young family of a bird

'Hornbills have a strange method for protecting their broods.'

13 **bud** (n): the unopened stage of a flower or leaf

'From time to time it produces a bud like an enormous cabbage.'

19 **bulldozer** (n): large vehicle used for knocking down obstacles and flattening the ground (see under barricade)

10 **camouflage** (v): to conceal

"A feature which helps to camouflage the sloth... is green algae."

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15 **camouflage** (n): colour or pattern which helps to conceal
'A tiger's stripes work effectively as camouflage.'

20 **cane** (n): material like thin bamboo

'Rattan is used to make cane furniture.'

3 **canopy** (n): covering, the top layer of a tree

'A gap opens in the canopy...'

8 **canopy-dwellers** (n): creatures which live in the canopy

'The result is a constant supply of nectar and fruit for the canopy-dwellers.'

22 **cellophane** (n): thin, transparent plastic

'Oils ... are used in ... cellophane and many other industrial processes'

13 **cellulose** (n): substance in plants which is used to make paper, plastic or textiles

'Termites are adapted to make use of the cellulose which forms the 'bones' of dead leaves.'

28 **chainsaw** (n): mechanical saw used for cutting down trees

'As more and more forest disappears, victim of the chainsaw and the bulldozer...'

7 **chaos** (n): disorder, confusion

'Although the rainforests may seem like a place of chaos, there are... well-defined levels in it.'

33 **chipboard** (n): strong, light boards used in making furniture or in building
'...waste products could be made into chip-board...'

34 **commitment** (n): firm agreement to do something

'It is only reasonable to expect the developed world to make financial commitment...'

29 **commodity** (n): something for sale

'The tropical rainforest is therefore seen as a commodity to be removed for quick cash.'

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20 **coniferous** (adj): kinds of tree, e.g. Christmas trees, often planted in forests in Northern Europe

"Hardwood is much more long-lasting than softwood (coniferous timber)."

23 **cure** (n): solution

"There is hope that the forests can provide a cure for another problem - hunger."

14 **deer** (n) (pl. deer): animals with horns which often have several points

"...there are a few species of deer in the forests."

24 **deforestation** (n): cutting down and clearing forest areas

"The need for firewood as fuel accounts for much deforestation."

22 **deodorant** (n): perfume

"Oils from tropical plants are used in deodorants."

10 **dense foliage** (n): thick leafy cover

"Birds which need to attract a mate in the dense foliage of the forest make wonderful displays."

34 **densely populated** (adj): with many people in a small area

"Tropical countries are far less densely populated than the countries of Europe."

25 **deprive** (v): to take something away from someone

"...the only effect on local people is to deprive them of their homes and sources of food."

22 **detergent** (n): substance used for washing or cleaning

"Oils from tropical plants are used in . . . detergents..."

10 **displays** (n): exhibitions

(see under dense foliage)

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26 **disruption** (n): serious disturbance

"The root of the problem is the disruption of the relationship between forest and rainfall."

11 **dodge** (v): to avoid obstacles by moving quickly

"Many [birds] have short wings which enable them to dodge and change direction easily."

32 **donation** (n): gift, usually of money

"Instead of loans or aid donations, the countries of the industrialised world could... start to pay a reasonable price for the services they receive."

3 **drastic** (adj): serious

"Ice Ages have had drastic effects on vegetation."

22 **dye** (n): substance made from plants or chemicals which changes the colour of things

"... dyes colour our clothes."

11 **elongated** (n): lengthened

"... a sort of fan supported on elongated ribs."

30 **emission** (n): release of gases or radiation into the atmosphere

"The developed world contributes 73 carbon per cent of dioxide emissions."

27 **evaporate** (v): to change from liquid to gas

"Water evaporates from the leaves into the atmosphere."

3 **evolve** (v): to develop

"More and more species have evolved."

17 **fibre** (n): thin thread of natural material - used like a rope

"Shelters are made from... poles tied together with fibres obtained from palms..."

3 **flourish** (v): to develop well and grow quickly

"...they [the plants] flourish in the sunlight."

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29 **foreign exchange** (n): a system for changing the currency of one country into that of another

"One of the easiest methods of earning foreign exchange..... is to export valuable hardwood timber"

1 **gather** (v): to collect, pick up

"For the people who gather it in the forest, the durian earns valuable income."

30 **global issue** (n): an important matter for the whole world and every part of the world

"Environmental concerns are now a global issue."

9 **gorgeous** (adj): beautiful

"These gorgeous birds are important pollinators."

17 **hammock** (n): rope mat, often suspended between two trees

"Fibres are used to make sleeping hammocks, fish traps and nets."

13 **horde** (n): a very large number

"... flies arrive in hordes to pollinate it [the rafflesia]."

4 **humid** (adj): damp and hot

"Epiphytes need water and absorb it from the humid air."

31 **hydroelectric** (adj): using water to generate electricity

"Hydroelectric dams silt up and become useless."

36 **interdependence** (n): where two or more people, countries etc. depend on each other

"This applies just as much to environmental concerns as to economic interdependence."

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2 **intricate** (adj): complicated

"Intricate chains... link plants and animals together,"

9 **iridescent** (adj): shiny, producing a rainbow of colours in reflected light
"These gorgeous iridescent birds are important pollinators."

5 **liana** (n): rope-like climbing plant
"Lianas grow up from the forest floor."

19 **logging companies** (n): companies which work with timber
"Logging companies have permission to cut down the trees."

1 **mangrove** (n): large tropical tree that grows in water
"The people have been clearing mangrove trees at the coast to make more room for building."

8 **mammal** (n): a warm-blooded animal which bears its young alive
"... snakes feed on small mammals."

10 **mate** (n): partner
"Birds which need to attract a mate... make wonderful displays."

3 **merge** (v): to join, became as one

"...the canopy where... the tops of the trees all merge together."

5 **mould** (n): fungi
"... moulds, which feed on the dead material, thrive in the moist, warm conditions."

15 **mound** (n): round pile or heap
"The scrubfowl... uses its strong legs to push vegetation and earth into a huge mound."

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35 multinational company (n): company with offices and factories in many different countries

"Resources are extracted by multinational companies."

8 mutual (adj): dependent on each other

"Relationships based on mutual needs are therefore common."

2 naturalist (n): scientist who studies plants or animals in their natural habitat

"... two British naturalists set off for the Amazon in 1848."

1 nectar (n): sweet liquid produced by flowers

"One species of bat feeds on the nectar of the durian tree."

17 nomads (n): people who move from place to place

"Some of the forest people are nomads."

2 notorious (adj): well known, for a bad or unpleasant reason

"London is notorious for its rain."

4 nutrients (n): chemicals which supply food to plants

"The roots absorb water and nutrients."

1 nutritious (adj): providing good food

"The flesh is sweet and nutritious."

13 parasite (n): plant or animal which lives on and feeds from another plant or animal

"The plant grows as a parasite on a certain liana."

18 patch (n): small area of land

"The people move on to a new patch."

12 patrol (v): to move around, hunting systematically

"At night, bats patrol the forest."

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- 1 **pollinate** (v): to make flowers fertile, i.e. able to produce fruit
"Bats pollinate the flowers."
- 31 **polluted** (adj): made dirty and useless
"Water supplies are polluted."
- 31 **potential** (n): possible usefulness
"... their potential for the future is enormous."
- 9 **predator** (n): animal which hunts and kills other animals
"The sloth is difficult to see and this may help it to hide from predators such as eagles and jaguars."
- 9 **prehensile** (adj): able to be curled or closed like a finger
"South American monkeys have prehensile tails."
- 32 **priority** (n): most important aim
"The first priority is to prevent further destruction."
- 15 **projection** (n): an object which sticks out
"The emu has . . . a bony projection on the top of its head."
- 26 **prospector** (n): someone who explores for precious stones and metals
"The forests are also being destroyed by mining companies prospectors . . . as well as individual prospertors."
- 13 **protein** (n): substance necessary for healthy growth, found in meat, eggs, milk etc.
"Termites are a major source of protein."
- 17 **razor blades** (n): fine sharp blades for removing hair on the face and body
"Sharp grasses can be used as razor blades."

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27 **regulate** (v): to control, keep in balance

"The balance of the atmosphere is regulated by the rainforests."

12 **release** (v): to set free

"The mother breaks down the mud barrier and the family is released."

35 **remote** (adj): difficult to reach, isolated

"The spread of the settler farmer... populates the remoter border regions."

30 **resent** (v): to feel annoyance with, and object to

"He resents being told not to cut down his forests."

17 **resin** (n): sticky substance produced by the bark or leaves of trees

"Resins from trees can be used to make torches."

8 **rhythm** (n): pattern of growth

"Each species follows its own rhythm."

1 **roost** (n): a sleeping place

"[The bat's] daytime roosts in the caves . . . have disappeared."

17 **sap** (n): liquid inside trees and plants

"The sap of certain plants is used to poison the water."

14 **scales** (n): small hard plates of skin

"The pangolin is covered with thick scales."

11 **scamper** (v): to run and jump quickly

"Squirrels scamper along the branches."

6 **sieve** (n): filter, fine net

"Rainforest trees [produce] a thick mat of... roots which act as a kind of sieve."

26 **silt** (n): fine mud

"Floods fill the dams with silt."

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- 10 **spectacular** (adj): remarkable to look at
"The most spectacular are paradise."
- 26 **sponge** (n): the birds of material for soaking up water
"The forest acts as a sponge, absorbing rain."
- 20 **staple food** (n): basic and most common food
"Rice is a staple food for much of the world's population."
- 7 **strategy** (n): plan or policy
"Strategies have been developed to overcome the problem."
- 32 **sustainable** (adj): able to continue, renewable
"The most valuable hardwood trees are being grown to be harvested on a sustainable basis."
- 11 **swiftness** (n): great speed
"Gibbons can escape through the middle storey with amazing swiftness."
- 16 **technique** (n): method
"Hunters have techniques for killing [animals] from the ground."
- 6 **temperate** (adj): (of climate) neither very hot nor very cold
"In a temperate forest [the nutrients] would be gently washed into the soil."
- 5 **thrive** (v): to develop very well
"Fungi thrive in the moist, warm conditions."
- 19 **timber** (n): wood prepared for use
"... timber is a valuable source of income.*"
- 17 **torch** (n): burning branch used to give light
"Resins from trees can be used to make torches."
- 11 **trap** (v): to catch and hold
"It is able to flatten its body . . . thus trapping air underneath and enabling it to glide."

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12 **heig** (n): small branch

"Some trees provide a special twig for the bats to hang from."

2 **unforeseen** (adj): not expected

"Destruction of one part of the forest can have unforeseen effects on other parts."

36 **viable** (adj): able to maintain itself

"The forest of Korup demonstrates an economically viable alternative to destruction."

2 **webs** (of dependence) (n): complex patterns of connections

"Webs of dependence link plants and animals together..."

12 **wriggle** (v): to twist one's body from side to side

"[The flying snake] can wriggle its body to change direction in the air."

24 **yield** (n): production of crops

"Scientists frequently use characteristics of wild species of our food plants to increase yields."