

Threats to the Rainforest

Use the words at the bottom of the page to help you fill in the blanks.
Tropical rainforests face many threats,
yet they are hugely ecosystems of the planet.
More than 200,000 acres of rainforest are every day. That is more than 150
acres lost every minute of every day, and 78 million acres lost every year! More than 20 percent
of the Amazon rainforest is already gone, and much more is severely threatened as the
continues.
Threats to the rainforest include deforestation, where huge areas of the forest are cleared for
various reasons, including farming, logging and The construction of roads for
farmers, loggers and miners also results in large parts of the rainforest being destroyed.
Many trees are cut down so that valuable trees like mahogany can be accessed and sold for
timber to make furniture. Other trees are cut down for making paper products.
Once the land is cleared of rainforest vegetation the soil is left When it rains, the
in the soil are washed away. The nutrient cycle stops because there are no plants
or trees shedding leaves to replace the nutrients in the soil. The soil is no longer able to support
plant life because it is not fertile. The roots of plants and trees no longer hold the soil together so it
is easily
CLIMATE CHANGE DIE MINING NUTRIENTS
DESTRUCTION ERODED BURNED CARBON DIOXIDE
SAVE PHOTOSYNTHESIS IMPORTANT BARE





Peruphasma schultei

DESCRIPTION

Small sized stick insects (5-6cm long as adults) which are predominantly black in colour with a velvety appearance. They have yellow eyes and small red wings, although they cannot fly. If startled they will flash these red wings at predators to confuse and scare them, giving them a chance to escape.

DIET

Privet, honeysuckle and leaves of the Schinus plants (Peruvian pepper tree).

DISTRIBUTION

These insects exist only in the Cordillera del Condor region of Peru in South America.

LIFE SPAN

Approximately 1 year.

STATUS IN THE WILD: Critically endangered.





Threats to the Rainforest

Unscramble the letters below to reveal reasons why tropical rainforests are under threat:

1. NGGLGOI
2. RGFAINM
3. PLMA IOL ITSPNALTANO
4. SRDAO
5. IESFTATROODEN
6. IMGNNI
7. STOFER SIFER

8. TCILMEA GNCEHA





DESCRIPTION

Royal pythons are small, stocky snakes with black or dark brown markings and light brown blotches on the back and side. Their belly is usually ivory white. Females tend to be larger than males and can reach up to 6 feet in length. They are the smallest of all the African python species.

DIET

Royal pythons feed on small animals including rodents, lizards and small birds. They have heat sensitive scales near their mouth which help them to find food. Royal pythons are constrictors and kill their prey by wrapping around it and squeezing.

DISTRIBUTION

These snakes are found in grasslands and sparsely wooded areas in Central and Western Africa.

LIFE SPAN

Approximately 25 years.

STATUS IN THE WILD:

Least concern.







My Earth Day Every Day Pledge

I pledge to do my part to help to Save the Earth.

I will Reduce, Reuse and Recycle to make every day Earth Day.

I care about our planet today and I can make a difference for tomorrow. Let's all work together!

FIPLEDGE

I will save energy.

I promise to turn off lights and electronics when not being used. I will walk, bike or share rides with family or friends, with permission when possible.

E!PLEDGE

I will conserve resources.

I promise to use a refillable water bottle for drinking. I will not waste water.

I will carry reusable bags for shopping.

PLEDGE

I will not litter.

I promise to put rubbish into proper receptacles. I will remember to recycle and will help others to keep the Earth clean and green each day.

FIPLEDGE

I will protect our planet.

I promise to celebrate Earth Day every day. It is our responsibility to keep the Earth healthy for people and animals.

Signed: Date:



Answer Sheet (Teachers info)

Tropical rainforests face many threats, yet they are hugely IMPORTANT ecosystems of the planet.

More than 200,000 acres of rainforest are **BURNED** every day. That is more than 150 acres lost every minute of every day, and 78 million acres lost every year! More than 20 percent of the Amazon rainforest is already gone, and much more is severely threatened as the **DESTRUCTION** continues.

Threats to the rainforest include deforestation, where huge areas of the forest are cleared for various reasons, including farming, logging and **MINING**. The construction of roads for farmers, loggers and miners also results in large parts of the rainforest being destroyed.

Many trees are cut down so that valuable trees like mahogany can be accessed and sold for timber to make furniture. Other trees are cut down for making paper products.

Once the land is cleared of rainforest vegetation the soil is left **BARE**. When it rains, the **NUTRIENTS** in the soil are washed away. The nutrient cycle stops because there are no plants or trees shedding leaves to replace the nutrients in the soil. The soil is no longer able to support plant life because it is not fertile. The roots of plants and trees no longer hold the soil together so it is easily **ERODED**.

Many different species of plants and animals **DIE** because of deforestation. As plants and animals are closely connected through the food web, deforestation reduces the variety of species found in the tropical rainforest.

The trees and plants of the Amazon Basin absorb **CARBON DIOXIDE** during the process of **PHOTOSYNTHESIS**If there are fewer trees and plants, due to deforestation, then less carbon dioxide is removed from the atmosphere. In this way deforestation contributes to global warming and therefore **CLIMATE CHANGE**.

It is important we act now to SAVE and protect the tropical rainforests of the world!

Word Scramble Answers

1. LOGGING

5. DEFORESTATION

2. FARMING

6. MINING

3. PALM OIL PLANTATIONS

7. FOREST FIRES

4. ROADS

8. CLIMATE CHANGE

