

30 seconds - what adjectives would you use to describe the rainforest?



Monday 17th January

LO: Comprehend a Non-Fiction Text

Vocabulary:

Precipitation = Rain, snow or sleet

Proximity = Nearness in space or time

Decompose = Rot and decay

Foliage = Plant leaves collectively

Humid = Damp

What is a Rainforest?

Rainforests are huge forests that have a large amount of precipitation. They are found in all continents of the world apart from Antarctica (due to the temperature). There are two types of rainforest: tropical (in the tropical, warm zone near the Equator) and temperate (in the temperate zone further away from the Equator). Most rainforests are tropical, with tall trees, warm climates and lots of rain. It can rain one inch of rain per day in some! The largest rainforest is the Amazon Rainforest in South America.



Fact File in Numbers

- 2% of the Earth's surface is covered in rainforest.
- 50% of the plants and animals of the world live in rainforests.
- $\frac{1}{5}$ of our fresh water is found in a rainforest in the Amazon Basin.
- $\frac{1}{4}$ of natural medicines have been found in rainforests.
- 70% + of the plants that are used to treat cancer are found **only** in the tropical rainforests.

The Canopy

The rainforest trees are in such close proximity, that the branches and leaves at the top of the trees touch each other and form what is referred to as 'The Canopy', which acts a bit like a roof for the forest. The canopy can be approximately 30m above the ground. The canopy is hotter and drier during the day than other parts of the rainforest so animals that live there have adapted. Some have loud calls in order to communicate in the thick foliage and some are able to jump from tree to tree.

The Forest Floor

This is dark and humid because of the canopy, but still is a very important part of the ecosystem. The floor is where dead animals and plants decompose and all of the nutrients and materials are recycled. Also, the larger animals are found here including tapirs, elephants, tigers and jaguars.

Why are they so important?

Rainforests do a few things that are critical to our life on Earth. One important thing that rainforests do is they use photosynthesis to take in carbon dioxide and make oxygen which we need to breathe and survive. This is why they are called 'The Lungs of The Earth'.

They also help keep our weather system stable by absorbing carbon dioxide, creating rainfall and keeping temperature stable. They also affect the water cycle as they hold so much water which condenses into the atmosphere.

So, how can we manage without them?

Retrieval

- 1) Name the two types of rainforest.
- 2) Why is the forest floor dark ?

Words in context

3) In the *Canopy* section, what does the author mean by 'close proximity' ?

4) Find and copy a word which means 'not likely to change'.

Inference

5) Near the end of the text, why does the author say rainforests are like the 'Lungs of the Earth' ?

6) In the fact file, why has the author emphasised the word 'only' ?

Retrieval Answers

1) Name the two types of rainforest.

Tropical and Temperate

2) Why is the forest floor dark ?

It is dark because the canopy layer blocks out most of the sunlight.

Words in context

3) In the Canopy section, what does the author mean by 'close proximity' ?

It means the trees are really close together

4) Find and copy a word which means 'not likely to change'. **stable**

Inference

5) Near the end of the text, why does the author say rainforests are like the 'Lungs of the Earth' ? **The author says this because the rainforest produces oxygen from carbon dioxide which helps us to breathe, just like our lungs help us to breathe.**

6) In the fact file, why has the author emphasised the word 'only' ? **It shows how important the rainforests are to help us find cures for cancer**