



**BIODIVERSITY:
ECOSYSTEMS**

THE RAINFOREST, A TREASURE

LESSON 1

SUBJECT	English reading, speaking
AGE / CYCLE	9-12 <i>Second cycle</i> 12-15, 16+
OBJECTIVES	Speaking: Provide a simple description of a studied object. Reading: Comprehend reading, analyze, and enjoy texts. Read with fluency and accuracy.
ESTIMATED TIME	40 minutes
MATERIALS	<i>Annex 1</i> , a treasure chest; put in it words and pictures of the rainforest in annex 1. Markers or chalk, tape. <i>Annex 2</i> , one for each student.
ESSENTIAL QUESTION OR SCENARIO	<i>What are rainforests and what happens if they disappear?</i>
LINGUISTIC COMPETENCIES	Speaking: Provide a simple description of a studied object. Reading: Comprehend reading, analyze, and enjoy texts. Read with fluency and accuracy.
LEVEL - UNIT	Grade 6, Unit 4
KEY WORDS	rainforest, biodiversity, species, environment, deforestation, ecosystem
TYPES	PDF, Video
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EVALUATION GOALS

Students will be able to:

- 1 Define and describe a rainforest.
- 2 Scan the article for facts.
- 3 Define words from the reading from context.
- 4 Give an idea for saving rainforests.
- 5 Identify the main idea of the article.

DEVELOPMENT

1 WARMUP

10 mins.

Show students the treasure chest and ask them, “*What is this? What do you usually find in a treasure chest?*”

Let students come up and choose pictures or words from the box and then show them to the other students and describe the pictures, and put them on the board. The words “rain” and “forest” are also in the box, and should be combined to make the word *rainforest*. Explain that it’s a compound word, a word made up of two other words. Let the students build the meaning according to the pictures they see. At the end of the exercise, have them define “rainforest.”

*Annex 1;
Treasure chest*

2 READING COMPREHENSION

30 mins.

Give to the Ss a reading about Rainforest in Costa Rica, and have them complete the activities. When they are finished, have them check answers with a partner, then check answers as a class.

Activity #1

Time the students as they scan the text in 3 minutes and find the information. (Scanning is looking over the whole text quickly to find certain facts.)

In 3 minutes, find these facts:

1. How much of the world’s biodiversity does Costa Rica have? Six percent
2. How many species are in the rainforests? 500,000
3. Name one endangered species. Jaguar, Baird’s tapir
4. How many species of vascular plants are there? 10,000
5. How can we restore damaged ecosystems? Plant trees.

Annex 2

2 READING COMPREHENSION (CONTD.)

Annex 2

Activity #2

Read the text and underline the words you don't know. As you complete the rest of the activities, see if you can guess the meanings.

Activity #3

Definitions were taken from ldoceonline.com. Students should not use dictionaries; they should practice guessing vocabulary from context. Their definition won't be exact, but they should understand the general meaning of the word. Ask students about prefixes, suffixes, and root words in the list, and talk about how they can help them guess the meaning.

Find (or guess) the meaning of these words from the reading. *Don't look in a dictionary.*

Biodiversity: the variety of plants and animals in a particular place. (*Bio=life. Ask students to think of other words with bio in them.*)

Species: a group of animals or plants whose members are similar and can breed together to produce young animals or plants

Deforestation: the cutting or burning down of all of the trees in an area. (*De means to take away or without.*)

Desertification: the process by which useful land, especially farmland, changes into desert. (*-ification makes a noun into a verb.*)

Ecosystem: all the animals and plants in a particular area, and the way in which they are related to each other and to their environment. (*Eco = environment. Think of other words with eco in them.*)

Activity #4

What is the main idea of the article?

(In general) Costa Rica is rich in animal and plant biodiversity. Rainforests are disappearing, and preserving (saving) them is very important.

Activity #5

Add one more idea for something you can do to help rainforests.

Answers will vary. *Could you use this opportunity to plan a class project?*

Possible answers: Eat less beef, use less wood and paper, use less oil (gasoline).

Any answer that shows care for the world is acceptable.

ANNEX 1

Jaguar Toucan

Sloth Tapir

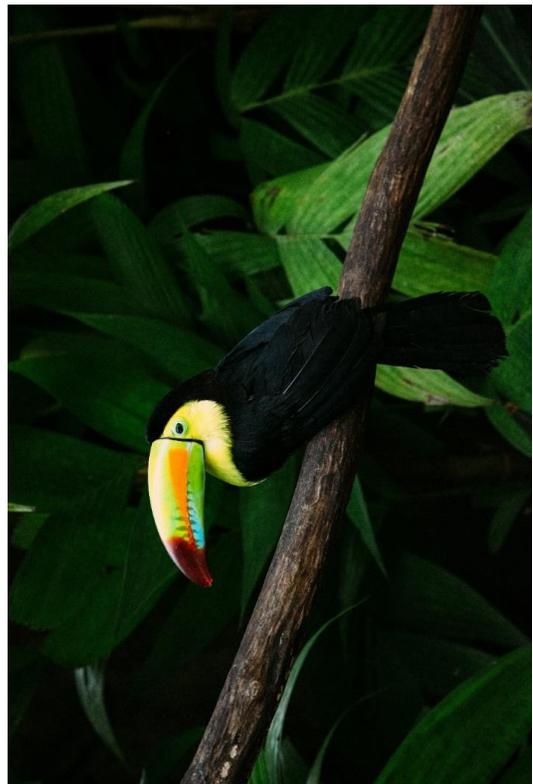
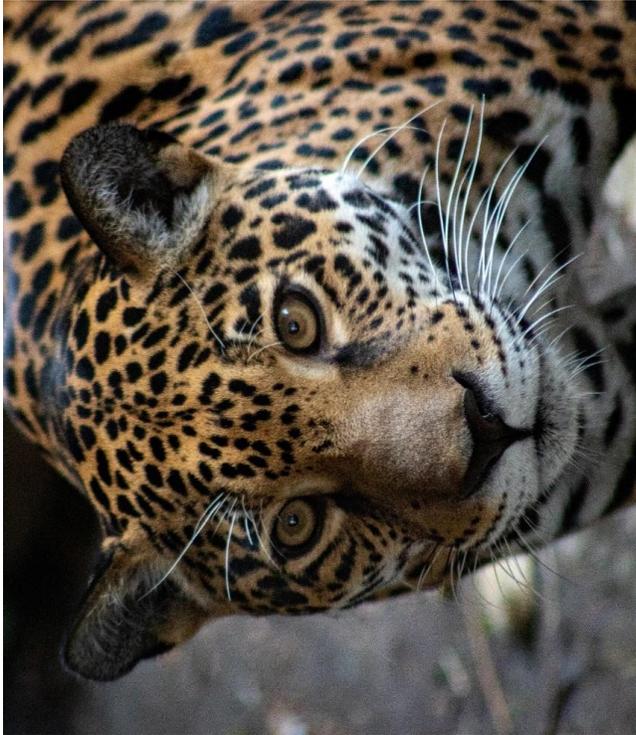
Spider River

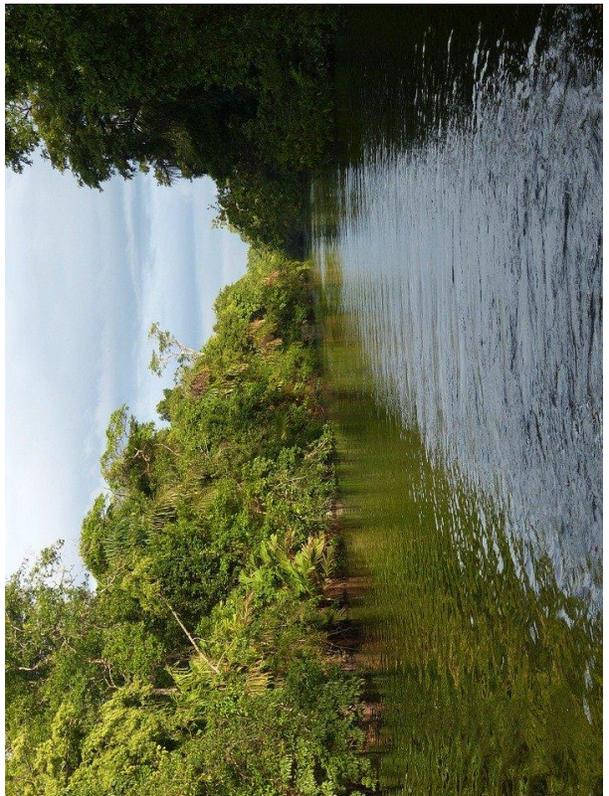
Trees Plants

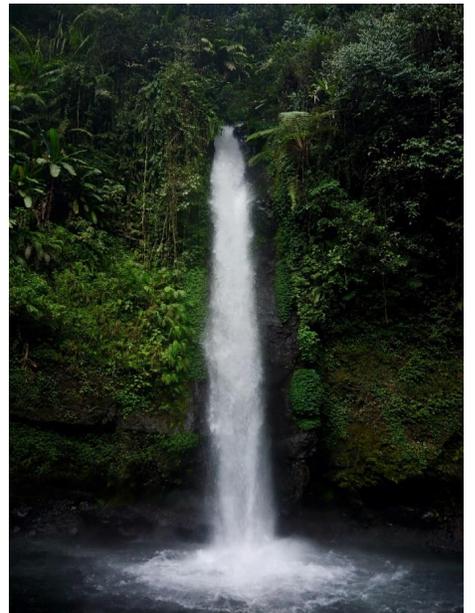
Waterfall Frog

Fungus Rain

Forest







ANNEX 2

The Rainforests of Costa Rica

Costa Rica provides some of the most unique biodiversity in the world. Our country has about six percent of the world's biodiversity, including plants and animals.) Costa Rica is home to 500,000 species in rainforests, which are forests in areas of high rainfall.

Some animals found in the rainforests include agoutis, coatimundi, howler and capuchin monkeys, sloths, butterflies, and crocodiles. Costa Rica rainforests also hold some of the most endangered species of wildlife, including jaguars and Baird's Tapir.

The flora in Costa Rica has over 10,000 species of vascular plants. It also has an amazing wealth of tropical flowers and other plants, including huge numbers of orchid and bromeliad species.

Rainforests are disappearing quickly, being cut down mostly for wood to build houses and roads as well as making space for cattle raising and farming. This is called deforestation.

The effects and consequences of deforestation are local and global: desertification, species extinction, biodiversity loss, and a rise in temperatures. However, there are a lot of people who want to save rainforests.

Some steps for saving rainforests are:

-Teach others about the importance of the environment and how they can help save rainforests.

-Restore damaged ecosystems by planting trees on land where forests have been cut down.

-Encourage people to live in a way that doesn't hurt the environment.

-Establish parks to protect rainforests and wildlife.

-Support companies that operate in ways that minimize damage to the environment.

Activity #1 Scanning

In 2 minutes, find these facts:

1. How much of the world's biodiversity does Costa Rica have? _____

2. How many species are in the rainforests?

3. Name one endangered species.

4. How many species of vascular plants are there? _____

5. How can we restore damaged ecosystems?

Activity #2

Read the text and underline the words you don't know.

Activity #3

Find (or guess) the meaning of these words from the reading. (Don't look in a dictionary.)

Biodiversity _____

Species _____

Deforestation _____

Desertification _____

Ecosystem _____

Activity #4

What is the main idea of the article?

Activity #5

Add one more idea for something **you** can do to help rainforests.

Activity #6

What word is made from the first letter of each step for saving the rainforest (last paragraph?)