

FORESTS

Video Exercise

1 Watch the video and match the sentences 1-6 with the correct types of forests: A (Deciduous forests), B (Coniferous forests), or C (Jungles).

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|--|-------|
| 1. These forests are mostly found in tropical regions. | T / F |
| 2. The trees in this kind of forest grow needles. | T / F |
| 3. The forest canopy can be so thick that little light passes through. | T / F |
| 4. These are the most common kind of forest around the world. | T / F |
| 5. They have trees with large leaves that fall when they mature. | T / F |
| 6. Their trees can survive cold winters with very little moisture. | T / F |

Reading

2 A Read the textbook chapter. What qualities do trees need in cold environments? Fill in the blanks.

Geographical Regions

Forests

Introduction:

This chapter will cover three major types of **forests**. All forests are characterized by abundant **perennial** growth.

Section 1: Deciduous forests are most common around the world, especially at middle latitudes with moderate to high precipitation. They feature trees with large, broad **leaves**, which fall when they reach maturity. This process occurs every year during autumn, and the branches remain bare throughout the winter. When the weather becomes warmer in the spring, the trees flower again. (page 29)

Section 2: Coniferous forests exist in colder climates, particularly in the **taiga**. Conifers are **evergreen** trees. Unlike deciduous forests, coniferous forests and **scrub** lands do not experience frequent new growth. Instead, they retain their foliage year-round. Also, they grow **needles**, which are more efficient than broad deciduous leaves. These adaptations ensure that conifers can survive cold winters with minimal moisture. (page 35)

Section 3: Jungles are common in tropical regions. These forests are characterized by dense vegetation and abundant animal life. The **forest floor** is often hidden by layers of plant growth. Similarly, the **canopy** can be so thick that little light passes through it. Many jungles feature rivers and other freshwater bodies. Other jungles, called **mangrove** forests, exist in salty swamplands or along marine coasts. (page 42)

leaf

needle

forest floor

coniferous forest

deciduous forest

In cold environments, trees must be able to withstand long periods without . To achieve this, they often have instead of broad . They also retain their needles - round to conserve energy.

2 B Use the text to complete the guide to forests.

A Guide to Forests

Deciduous: These have abundant vegetation – trees with broad leaves – during the warm part of the year with high . When the weather becomes less hospitable, they lose their . New leaves grow in the in response to the return of favorable conditions.

Coniferous: These trees are better for retaining because of their efficient evergreen . As a result, they are better suited to climates than deciduous trees.

Jungle: These forests grow in climates where they thrive because of the heat and abundant precipitation. They have thick and support diverse plant and life.

Vocabulary

3 Match the words or phrases with the definitions (A-G).

forest

forest floor

scrub

mangrove

perennial

canopy

evergreen

A a plant community including various shrubs, grasses and herbs

B retaining green, functional leaves during the winter

C continuing to grow year after year

D a tropical tree that grows in saltwater environments

E a ground covering often including dead vegetation and decomposers

F a thick growth of trees and other vegetation covering a broad area

G the uppermost part of a forest where most leaves grow

4 Read the sentence pairs. Choose which word best fits each blank.

deciduous

coniferous

1 A Trees in forests drop from the branches in the autumn.

B Trees in forests have adaptations for very cold, dry weather.

taiga

jungle

2 A In the , trees must be able to withstand very low temperatures.

B A is characterized by thick, abundant vegetation throughout the year.

needles

leaves

3 A transpire little moisture, so they are practical in areas of low precipitation.

B Many trees grow new every year.

Listening

5 Listen to a conversation between a professor and a student. Choose the correct answers.

1 What is the conversation mostly about?

- ☐ A the differences between types of forests
- ☐ B typical animal life in some forests
- ☐ C environmental concerns in a particular forest
- ☐ D a research project on a type of forest

2 What does the woman remind the man about?

- ☐ A the foliage of deciduous trees
- ☐ B the organisms on the forest floor
- ☐ C the purpose of needles
- ☐ D the life forms in the jungle

6 Listen again and complete the conversation with the missing words.

Professor: Okay, Graham. What do you remember about the different types of forests?

Student: Well, the chapter split them into three groups: deciduous forests, coniferous forests, and jungles.

Professor: Good. Tell me about deciduous forests.

Student: Let's see. They are characterized by the fact that the trees lose their leaves every year.

Professor: Right. How would you describe their foliage?

Student: Deciduous trees bear leaves.

Professor: You got it. Now, how does that make them different 1) ?

Student: Conifers bear needles 2) broad leaves.

Professor: Yes, and that helps them survive in 3) . Tell me why.

Student: Um, I'm not really sure. Is it because the needles 4) ?

Professor: Partly. But more importantly, the needles are 5) broad leaves.

Student: Oh, of course! The needles 6) as much moisture. That helps the tree retain water during the winter.

Professor: Excellent! And finally, please tell me about the jungle.

Student: Jungles have very dense vegetation. They also harbor many diverse life forms, especially in the canopy.

Professor: Exactly!