Think and learn

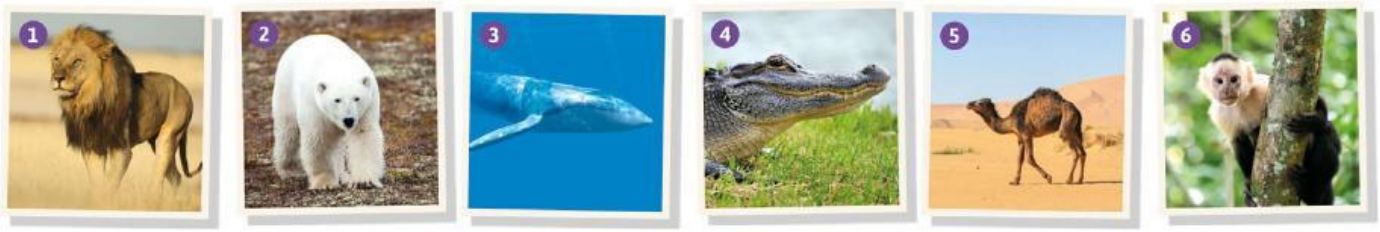
1 Look and match the ecosystems with the photos.

1 desert 2 grassland 3 ~~ocean~~ 4 rainforest 5 tundra 6 wetland

2 Write the names of the ecosystems from Activity 1 in the chart.

Ecosystem	Climate	Plants	Animals
1 ocean	Cool or warm. Warmer on the surface. Can be very windy.	Plants that live in water – seaweed, seagrass, kelp, algae.	whale
2 _____	Cold or hot. Rains all year. Lots of water.	Plants with long, strong roots that sit on water. Trees in water.	_____
3 _____	Warm or hot. Rains a lot.	Lots of trees and creepers, many different plants.	_____
4 _____	Hot. Dry for six months, wet for six months.	A few trees. Lots of grass.	_____
5 _____	Very cold and windy. Snowy and icy but quite dry.	No trees. A few small plants.	_____
6 _____	Hot or cold. Very dry.	No trees. Very few plants.	_____

3 Where do they live? Write the names of the animals in the chart in Activity 2.



4 Read and answer.

Why do you think polar bears have white fur? How does it help them?

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5 Why are rainforests important? Read and tick ☑ the reasons the article mentions.

Why do we need rainforests?

Rainforests are amazing. More than 30 million different kinds of plants and animals live there. Many people live in rainforests too. Rainforests give them food, shelter and medicines. In fact, more than 25% of our medicines originally came from tropical rainforest plants.

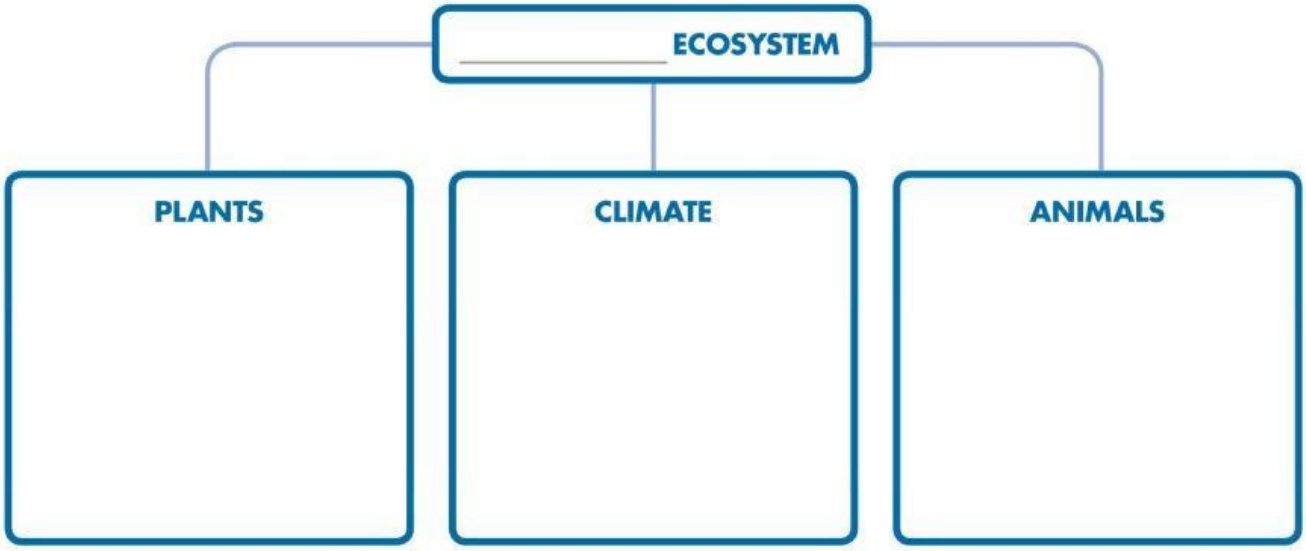
Rainforests are sometimes called the 'lungs' of the Earth. The leaves on trees make energy from sunlight and a gas called carbon dioxide. This process makes a gas called oxygen. We need oxygen to stay alive. Carbon dioxide is dangerous for us if there is too much of it in the air. Trees help us by using up the dangerous gas and making the gas we need!

Rainforests are very important for the Earth's climate. The trees take water from the forest floor and put it back into the air as clouds. Scientists think that trees in the Amazon rainforest store more than half the Earth's rainwater.

The water in clouds can travel a long way before it falls as rain and ends up in rivers, lakes and oceans. It can even travel across continents, so water that starts as a cloud in Africa can fall as rain in the Americas! Rainforests help to recycle water and control the Earth's climate. Without them, the Earth would be much hotter and drier.

1 They make a lot of the food we eat. ☐
2 They have given some of our medicines. ☐
3 They make a gas we need to stay alive. ☐
4 They help to control the Earth's climate. ☐
5 They help to move water around the Earth. ☐
6 They give a lot of wood for furniture. ☐

6 Project **What have you found out about the ecosystem you chose? Complete the mind map.**



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