

1. Retell the story

Out of Rainforests



Have you ever entered a **tropical rainforest**? It's a special, dark place completely different from anywhere else. A rainforest is a place where the trees grow very tall. Millions of kinds of animals, insects, and plants live in the rainforest. It is hot and **humid** in a rainforest. It rains a lot in the rainforest, but sometimes you don't know it's raining. The trees grow so closely together that rain doesn't always reach the ground.

Rainforests make up only a small part of the Earth's surface, about six percent. They are found in tropical parts of the world. The largest rainforest in the world is the Amazon in South America. The Amazon covers 1.2 billion **acres**, or almost five million **square kilometers**. The second largest rainforest is in Western Africa. There are also rainforests in Central America, Southeast Asia, Northeastern Australia, and the Pacific Islands.

Rainforests provide us with many things. In fact, the Amazon Rainforest is called the "lungs of our planet" because it produces twenty percent of the world's oxygen. One fifth of the world's fresh water is also found in the Amazon Rainforest. Furthermore, one half of the world's **species** of animals, plants, and insects live in the Earth's rainforests. Eighty percent of the food we eat first grew in the rainforest. For example, pineapples, bananas, tomatoes, corn, potatoes, chocolate, coffee, and sugar all came from rainforests. Twenty-five percent of the drugs we take when we are sick are made of plants that grow only in rainforests. Some of these drugs are even used to fight and cure **cancer**. With all the good things we get from rainforests, it's surprising to find that we are destroying our rainforests. In fact, 1.5 acres, or 6,000 **square meters**, of rainforest disappear every second. The forests are being cut down to make fields for cows, to **harvest** the plants, and to clear land for farms. Along with losing countless valuable species, the destruction of rainforests creates many problems worldwide. Destruction of rainforests results in more pollution, less rain, and less oxygen for the world.



Vocabulary and Idiom Review

A. Choose the best word or phrase to fill in the blank.

1. ____ people have died in car accidents.
a. Valuable b. Countless c. Frequent d. Particular
2. A small ____ of the Earth's population has access to computers.
a. people b. species c. percent d. acre
3. We may have a ____ of oxygen in the future if all the rainforests are cut down.
a. shortage b. production c. less d. spare
4. That ____ of snake is poisonous. Watch out!
a. species b. percent c. source d. insect
5. The tree's branches are so long that they ____ the ground.
a. reach b. are made of c. cut down d. rise

B. Choose the correct form of the word to fill in the blank.

8. That water looks ____.
a. pollution b. polluted c. polluting
9. When did the last dinosaur ____?
a. disappear b. disappearance c. disappeared
10. The ____ is very high today.
a. humid b. humidity c. humidify