

17.11 Review

17.11.1 Key knowledge summary

17.2 Rainforest characteristics

- There are different types of rainforest, montane, temperate and lowland.
- Rainforests have similar characteristics and a similar structure with distinct layers.

17.4 Changing rainforest environments

- Australia was once covered by rainforests. Over time the gradual movement of the continent southwards has resulted in a dramatic decrease in the amount of rainforest found in Australia.
- Australia's tropical rainforests have World Heritage status and Indigenous communities have adapted to live in the rainforest environment.
- The Amazon Basin is the world's largest remaining rainforest and plays an important role in controlling the world's climate and oxygen supply.
- Many products found in our pantries and medicine cabinets have their origins in the rainforest.

17.6 Indigenous peoples and the rainforest

- Indigenous people rely on the rainforest to supply all their needs.
- They live traditional lifestyles — nomadic, subsistence and hunter-gatherers.

17.7 Disappearing rainforests

- The major issue facing today's rainforests is deforestation, mainly due to commercial logging, farming and mining activities.
- Rainforests in developing nations are most at risk. Here the population is expanding rapidly, and the people are poor. Exploitation of the rainforest is viewed as of more value than preserving it.
- Often small land-holdings are taken over by large-scale farming developments.

17.8 Social and environmental impacts of deforestation

- Deforestation has a dramatic impact on the environment. The regulating effect on the planet is lost and carbon dioxide is released into the atmosphere, accelerating global warming.
- As the rainforest becomes fragmented, animal species such as the orangutan lose their habitat and become isolated. Entire species are threatened with extinction.
- Indigenous people lose their traditional way of life and their lands. The land becomes more prone to landslides once vegetation is removed, posing a threat to the inhabitants of the region.
- As outsiders move into a region, they bring diseases such as the flu and measles; with no natural immunity, entire populations are at risk of being wiped out.

17.9 Saving and preserving rainforests

- Only a small proportion of rainforests are protected and in developing countries the challenge is on to protect them
- Sustainable development, finding alternatives to timber products and educating the public are some of the measures being used to manage and preserve rainforests.

17.11.2 Reflection

Complete the following to reflect on your learning.

17.11 ACTIVITIES

Revisit the inquiry question posed in the Overview:

Content to come



1. Now that you have completed this topic, what is your view on the question? Discuss with a partner. Has your learning in this topic changed your view? If so, how?
2. Write a paragraph in response to the inquiry question outlining your views.

Resources

-  **eWorkbook** Reflection (doc-xxxxx)
Crossword (doc-xxxxx)
-  **Interactivity** Rainforest landscapes crossword (int-xxxx)

KEY TERMS

Basin drainage basin; the total area drained by a river and its tributaries

catchment area of land that drains into a river

clearfelling a forestry practice in which most or all trees and forested areas are cut down

compost a mixture of various types of decaying organic matter such as dung and dead leaves

ecosystems an interconnected community of plants, animals and other organisms that depend on each other and on the non-living things in their environment

ecotourist a tourist who travels to threatened ecosystems in order to help preserve them

evapotranspiration the process by which water is transferred to the atmosphere from surfaces such as the soil and plants

gorges narrow valley with steep rocky walls

habitats the total environment where a particular plant or animal lives, including shelter, access to food and water, and all of the right conditions for breeding

hosts an organism that supports another organism

hydroelectric dams a dam that harnesses the energy of falling or flowing water to generate electricity

ice ages historical period during which the Earth is colder, glaciers and ice sheets expand and sea levels fall

leaching a process that occurs in areas of high rainfall, where water runs through the soil, dissolving minerals and carrying them into the subsoil. The process can be compared to a coffee pot in which the water drips through the coffee grounds.

microclimate specific atmospheric conditions within a small area

nomadic describes a group that moves from place to place depending on the food supply, or pastures for animals

selective logging a forestry practice in which only selected trees are cut down

shifting agriculture process of moving gardens or crops every couple of years because the soils are too poor to support repeated sowing

species a biological group of individuals having the same common characteristics and able to breed with each other

subsistence producing only enough crops and raising only enough animals to feed yourself and your family or community

sustainable development economic development that causes a minimum of environmental damage, thereby protecting the interest of future generations

temperate describes the relatively mild climate experienced in the zones between the tropics and the polar circles