

Unit 2 Cross-curricular worksheet

Natural Sciences: Rainforests

1 Read the text.



Rainforests are only a small part of the Earth, but they are important to all of us. They are home to millions of **indigenous** people and they also contain approximately two-thirds of the plant and animal life in the world. The trees and plants that grow in rainforests are a **source** of natural medicines, and 25% of our medicines contain a rainforest ingredient.

We call the rainforests 'the lungs of the planet', because they **absorb** enormous amounts of **carbon dioxide**. They then turn the carbon dioxide into oxygen as part of their natural growing process.

The destruction of the rainforests contributes to **global warming** because, with fewer trees, less carbon dioxide is absorbed. In addition, if someone cuts down a tree and burns it, the tree releases the carbon dioxide it absorbed.

Every year, 15,000 square kilometres of rainforests are destroyed. Farmers and businesses cut down the trees, sell the wood and then use the land for growing **crops** or for grazing animals. But the land is not really good enough for growing crops or grass, so after a few years the crops stop growing and the land becomes useless. The people and wild animals are left without homes, natural medicines are destroyed and global warming becomes worse.

Every day, rainforest the size of 23,000 football pitches is destroyed. Scientists think that at this rate, all of the rainforests could disappear in less than forty years. What will happen to our planet then?

2 Read the text again. Underline the correct options. Use your dictionary to help you.

A towel can absorb / source a lot of water.

- 1 **Crops** / **Global warming** is making our planet hotter.
- 2 Farmers grow **rainforest** / **crops** on farms.
- 3 Pollution from traffic contains **carbon dioxide** / **global warming**.
- 4 An encyclopaedia is a great **indigenous** / **source** of information.
- 5 The **indigenous** / **carbon dioxide** people of a place are the people who have always lived there.

3 Read the text again. Are the sentences true (T) or false (F)?

Rainforests cover two-thirds of the planet. F

- 1 Rainforests help to protect our planet from global warming. _____
- 2 Rainforest plants provide ingredients for medicines. _____
- 3 Businesses are planting new trees in the rainforests. _____
- 4 You can grow crops on rainforest soil for many years. _____
- 5 Scientists think there won't be any more rainforests in the future. _____