

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_



# Tropical Rainforests

My name's Professor Nimbus. You must be my next assistant.

Allow me to tell you about the destination of our expedition:

The tropical rainforests. Ever heard of them before?

Close to the equator, so each day of the year is wet and warm,

And they can range

From 70 inches to 30 feet of annual rain.

Well, obviously, that's in the name.

And the air is so moist even after it rains,

But the rainforests contain more than just muggy and warm air.

In total, there are four layers, so let's go and explore there.

Up top's the emergent layer; it has the most massive trees.

Below that is the canopy, where the leafy treetops and the branches meet.

It's the roof that blocks the sun from the next two,

Has more animals than the rest do,

Including birds and flying squirrels and monkeys, uncles and nephews.

Hold up, wait a minute, let me put some snakes up in it

With the frogs and insects in the understory layer hissing.

The understory is a layer where you can go

If you're trying to make a smaller tree, flower or plant grow.

At last, we're on the forest floor,

The last part of this smorgasbord.

Of the flora and the fauna

In this organic sauna,

There's everything from fungi to, uh, fungi,

Because the forest floor lacks good soil and sunlight.

But as far as animals go,

It's just incredible here:

Gorillas, leopards and deer.

Now could you imagine

Just what would happen

If all this up and disappeared?

I mean these creatures. Me either.

What do you know about the tropical rainforest

And all that it made for us?

It can feed us, keep us healthy,

Even helps us breathe in peace.

(x2)

Now the rainforests' terrain's only six percent of the planet, dude,

But it's a habitat for half the planet's plants and animals

That is an amount that you

Couldn't match even if you counted through 1,000 zoos.

Wow, that's huge. Wow, that's huge.

And if we lose them, it's quite a science emergency

That endangers the rainforests biodiversity.

Biodiversity is a term that we use to describe

The mix of different species a habitat has inside,

And that's exactly what keeps this ecosystem strong.

To understand why, you might just need to listen on.

By now you learned about the tropical rainforest,

But do you really know all of the things that it's made for us?

Their trees keep one-fifth of our oxygen pouring in,

And there's a large amount of carbon that they store within.

On top of that, they helped us create more than Edison.

We use their plants for coffee, chocolate and important medicine.

But some humans have been doing something called deforestation,

They cut down and they clear out the rainforest 'til it's vacant,

And use the space for farms and roads.

Oh, the trees? They harvest those.

If you think that's bad, then wait 'til you hear where all the carbon goes.

But first, we must realize because the rainforests are shrinking,

It brings the plants and animals closer toward their extinction.

Less oxygen is released and less carbon is caught by

The trees that get chopped, die and release carbon dioxide.

That's one of the reasons for the changes in the climate.

What if we lose the cure for cancer because rainforests are dying?

And even though there are many environmental laws

And groups of activists who rise up, fighting for the cause,

The rainforest needs anyone who can protect it.

Because everyone's connected, respect it.

What do you know about the tropical rainforest

And all that it made for us?

It can feed us, keep us healthy,

Even helps us breathe in peace.

(x2)