

What Happens When Forests Disappear?

Instructions: Read the text about **deforestation**. Look for the geography and science words in **bold**. Then answer the questions.

What is deforestation?

Deforestation means cutting down trees over a large area. Sometimes trees are removed quickly, and the land is changed into farms, roads, or buildings. Deforestation can happen in many places, including tropical rainforests.

Forests can grow back, but only if people protect the land and plant new trees. Planting trees again is called **reforestation**.

Deforestation

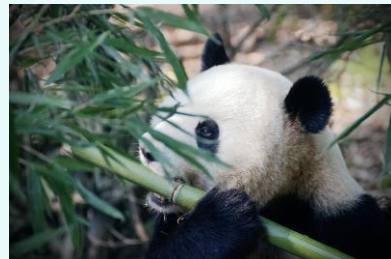


Why are forests important?

Forests are **habitats** for many plants and animals. This means forests provide food, shelter, and space. Forests often have high **biodiversity** (lots of different living things).

Trees also help the air. They take in **carbon dioxide** and release oxygen. Trees can also affect rainfall because water can move from trees into the air through a process called **transpiration**.

Forest habitat



What causes deforestation?

Deforestation happens for different reasons. Some forests are cleared for **farming** so people can grow crops or raise cattle. Some trees are cut down for **logging** (selling wood for paper, furniture, or building).

Making space for new roads and farms

Forests can also be removed to make space for mining, roads, and towns. When new roads are built, it can become easier for more trees to be cut down later.



What are the effects?

When forests are destroyed, animals can lose their habitat and may not survive. The number of different living things can decrease, so biodiversity goes down.

Without trees, soil can be washed away more easily. This is called **erosion**. Erosion can make rivers muddy and can increase the risk of **flooding**. Deforestation can also affect the **climate** because fewer trees are left to take in carbon dioxide.

Effects



People and solutions

Many **indigenous** communities live in or near forests and use them for food, medicine, and shelter. When forests disappear, people can lose their homes and their way of life.

There are ways to help. **Conservation** means protecting forests and wildlife. Governments can create protected areas. Farmers can use more **sustainable** methods that protect soil and trees. People can also reduce waste, recycle paper, and choose products that do not harm forests.

Solutions



Glossary

Word	Meaning
Deforestation	Cutting down trees over a large area.
Reforestation	Planting trees again to replace forests.
Habitat	A living thing's home, where it finds food, shelter, and space.
Biodiversity	The variety of different living things in an area.
Carbon dioxide	A gas in the air that trees take in.
Transpiration	When water escapes from plant leaves into the air as water vapour.
Logging	Cutting down trees to sell the wood.
Erosion	When soil is washed or blown away.
Flooding	When water covers land that is usually dry.
Climate	The usual weather in a place over a long time.
Indigenous	People who have lived in a place for a very long time.
Conservation	Protecting habitats and living things.
Sustainable	Doing something in a way that can continue without causing too much damage.

Questions

1. Using your own words, explain what **deforestation** means.

2. Give two reasons forests are important, using information from the text.

3. Which glossary word means "planting trees again to replace forests"?

4. Why might building new roads lead to more deforestation later on?

5. What can you infer might happen to animals when forests are destroyed?

6. Put these events in the correct order: *flooding risk increases, trees are removed, soil is washed away.*

7. How do trees help the air and the water cycle? Give one fact for each.

8. How is **reforestation** different from **deforestation**?

-
9. Name two human activities mentioned in the text that cause deforestation.

10. Why is the word **sustainable** important when describing farming methods in the text?

11. Summarise one effect of deforestation on people and one effect on the environment.

12. Which solution in the text do you think would help forests the most, and why? Use evidence from the text in your answer.

Answers

1. It means removing or cutting down many trees across a large area of land.
2. Example answers: forests are habitats for plants and animals; they take in carbon dioxide and release oxygen; they help rainfall through transpiration.
3. The glossary word is **reforestation**.
4. Because roads make forests easier for people to reach, so more trees may be cut down afterwards.
5. Animals may lose their habitats, struggle to find food or shelter, and some may not survive.
6. Correct order: trees are removed, soil is washed away, flooding risk increases.
7. Air: trees take in carbon dioxide and release oxygen. Water cycle: trees release water into the air through transpiration, which can affect rainfall.
8. Deforestation is the removal of trees, while reforestation is planting trees again to replace what has been lost.
9. Example answers: farming, logging, mining, road building, or building towns.
10. It is important because sustainable farming protects soil and trees and allows farming to continue without causing too much damage.
11. Example answer: people, especially indigenous communities, may lose their homes or way of life. The environment can suffer because animals lose habitats, biodiversity decreases, and erosion or flooding may increase.
12. Answers may vary. Example: creating protected areas could help the most because it can stop forests being destroyed while also protecting wildlife, habitats, and biodiversity.