

Tropical Rainforest

Explanatory Notes for Teachers

Level: S3

Topic: Tropical Rainforest

Supporting Teaching Materials: Information sheet and Worksheet

Students' Prior Knowledge

Before this ELA unit, students have learnt about tropical rainforests through the medium of Chinese

Aims and Objectives

I. Content Objectives

After the ELA activities, students should be able to use English to:

1. explain how human activities affect the tropical rainforest; and
2. list the reasons for deforestation.

II. Language Objectives

After the ELA activities, students should be able to

1. understand and use the English terms related to this topic (e.g., *deforestation, slash and burn, grow cash crops, raise cattle, collect firewood, dig mines, build ranches, commercial logging, plantations*)
2. understand and use the English expressions for discussing the causes of deforestation in the tropical rainforest, e.g.,
 - *People in South America raise cows and sheep and sell them for money.*
 - *To build large ranches to keep cattle, big companies cut down many trees.*
 - *Natives grow cash crops in the tropical rainforest for additional income.*
 - *Foreign companies build plantations in the rainforest to produce rubber for profit.*
 - *Governments construct roads and factories in the forest to promote economic growth.*
 - *Commercial logging develops quickly.*
 - *Tropical rainforests are disappearing rapidly.*
 - *Human activities have led to rapid deforestation.*
 - *Natives collect firewood widely.*
 - *They also cut down trees extensively for shift cultivation.*
 - *Vast areas of forest are cleared for cash crops.*

Procedure:

1. The Teacher should help students to read the information sheet “Tropical Rainforest”.
Pre-reading: To guide students’ reading, the teacher can draw their attention to the question at the beginning of the information sheet and the sub-heading of each paragraph.
2. **Exercise One:** Based on their understanding of the information sheet, students try to match the key vocabulary in column A with the correct phrases in column B.
3. **Exercise Two:** Students use the given words to complete the summary of the information sheet.
4. **Exercise Three:** Students choose the correct words to produce an error-free text about deforestation.

Tropical Rainforest



Why are the rainforests disappearing?

Causes of deforestation

Trees in tropical rainforests are cut down or burned **extensively** (廣泛地) by people who want to use the land for other purposes. Tropical rainforests are **rapidly** (快速地) disappearing. Every year about 310,000 square kilometres of forest are lost. The area of tropical rainforests today is just half of the **original** (原本的) area.

1. Farming

As the population grows, people have to farm the forest in order to grow food for their families. They **slash and burn** the trees to clear the forest and make land to farm. As a result, many trees have **disappeared**.



- Plantations (大農場農業)

People also **grow cash crops** (經濟作物) such as rubber, cocoa and sugar cane in the forest. Large areas of forest land are cleared and turned into plantation for growing these cash crops.



- Cattle (生畜) ranching (牧養)

Many foreign companies have cleared extensive (廣泛的) areas of tropical rainforest to create pasture land (牧地) to **raise cattle**.



- Logging (伐木)
- Commercial (商業) logging

Many trees are cut down to produce firewood for use in construction projects, to make furniture and also for making paper.

2. Mining (礦業)

To develop the economy, minerals (礦物) such as gold are exploited (開採) in rainforest areas. Some rainforest areas are also sources of oil and natural gas (天然氣). Many trees are cut down so that the people can dig **mines** (礦產) or drill for oil and gas.

3. Development

Many countries in which tropical rainforests are located are poor countries. They allow logging for export and sell the forest land to foreign companies to encourage foreign investment (投資). Trees are also cut down so that roads and dams can be **constructed**.

Exercise One

Match column A with column B.

Column A		Column B
a. plantation	_____	1. develop
b. natives	_____	2. a farm to raise animals
c. logging	_____	3. animals kept for food and other products
d. mining	_____	4. made from wood & used in barbecue
e. exploit	_____	5. a large farm to grow cash crops
f. cultivation	_____	6. ores that can be turned into useful metal
g. cattle	_____	7. an act of digging ores from underground
h. ranch	_____	8. people living in the same place for a very long time
i. minerals	_____	9. cutting the trees for wood
j. charcoal	_____	10. farming

Exercise Two

Fill in the following sentences with words from the table below.

raise	grow	produce	construct	open
collect	ranches	disappear	logging	



1. People in South America _____ cows and sheep and sell them for money.
2. To build large _____ to keep cattle, big companies cut down many trees in tropical rainforests.
3. Natives _____ cash crops in the tropical rainforest and sell them. This gives them additional income.
4. Foreign companies build plantations in the tropical rainforest to _____ rubber, coffee and sugar cane etc. for profit.
5. Governments _____ roads and factories in the forest to help promote economic growth.
6. Commercial _____ develops quickly as people cut down trees for furniture or construction works.
7. Natives _____ firewood from the tropical rainforest for their daily lives.
8. Industrial development requires a lot of metal. People _____ mines in the tropical rainforest to get iron or copper ore.
9. As a result of these human activities, some species of trees in the tropical rainforest will soon _____.



Exercise Three:

Choose the correct way to complete the sentences. Circle the correct words to complete the paragraph correctly.

Tropical rainforests are disappearing (1) rapid / rapidly. Human activities have led to (2) rapid / rapidly deforestation. (3) Vast / Vastly areas of forest are cleared for cash crops. People have started growing cash crops (4) wide / widely in plantations. Foreign companies have (5) massive / massively (普遍) increased cattle ranching in the forest. Because of commercial logging, many trees were cut down for (6) huge/ hugely construction works and paper making. Trees are also cut down so that roads and dams can be constructed.

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6. Commercial logging develops quickly as people cut down trees for furniture or construction works.



7. Natives collect firewood from the tropical rainforest for their daily lives.

8. Industrial development requires a lot of metal. People open mines in the tropical rainforest to get iron or copper ore.

9. As a result of these human activities, some species of trees in the tropical rainforest will soon disappear.

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