

# Active Reading

## 6.2 Section: Forest Biomes

Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow.

Tropical rain forests once covered about 20 percent of Earth's surface. Today, they cover only about 7 percent. Every minute of every day, 100 acres of tropical rain forest are cleared for logging operations, agriculture, or oil exploration. Habitat destruction occurs when land inhabited by an organism is destroyed or altered. If the habitat that an organism depends on is destroyed, the organism is at risk of disappearing.

Animals and plants are not the only organisms that live in rain forests. An estimated 50 million native peoples live in tropical rain forests. These native peoples are also threatened by habitat destruction. Because they obtain nearly everything they need from the forest, the loss of their habitat could be devastating. This loss of habitat may force them to leave their homes and move into cities. This drastic change of lifestyle may also cause the native peoples to lose their culture and traditions along the way.

### IDENTIFYING MAIN IDEAS

One reading skill is the ability to identify the main idea of a passage. The main idea is the main focus or key idea. Frequently a main idea is accompanied by supporting information that offers detailed facts about main ideas.

Read each question and write the answer in the space provided.

1. How much tropical rain forest is cleared every minute?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. List three organisms that live in the rain forest.

\_\_\_\_\_

3. How many native peoples are estimated to be living in rain forests?

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Where might native peoples go when they are threatened by habitat destruction?

\_\_\_\_\_

### VOCABULARY DEVELOPMENT

Read each question and write the answer in the space provided.

5. When land inhabited by an organism is destroyed or altered, \_\_\_\_\_ occurs.

**Active Reading *continued***

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6. If something is habitable, it is suitable for living in. Using this information, how would you define habitat?

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**SEQUENCING INFORMATION**

One reading skill is the ability to sequence information, or to logically place items or events in the order in which they occur.

**Sequence the statements below to show the steps in the process of habitat destruction. Write “1” on the line in front of the first step, “2” on the line in front of the second step, and so on.**

7. The native peoples begin to lose some of their culture and traditions.
8. Several acres of a tropical rain forest are cleared for a logging operation.
9. The organisms that native peoples depend on begin to disappear.
10. Native peoples are forced to leave their homes and move into the cities.

**RECOGNIZING SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES**

One reading skill is the ability to recognize similarities and differences between two phrases, ideas, or things. This is sometimes known as comparing and contrasting.

**Read each question and write the answer in the space provided.**

11. What percentage of Earth’s surface was once covered by tropical rain forests? What percentage is covered by tropical rain forests today?

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12. How are animals, plants, and humans similarly affected when a tropical rain forest is cleared?

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**RECOGNIZING CAUSE AND EFFECT**

One reading skill is the ability to recognize cause and effect.

**Read each question and write the answer in the space provided.**

13. Why are tropical rain forests cleared?

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14. What might be the cause of an organism’s disappearance?

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