

Rainforest solutions



Re-using items as many times as you can will help protect the environment. This is because companies will not need to collect as much of the world's precious wood, metals and other materials to make new things.

It's a fact:

If all the UK's office workers used one less staple a day (by re-using a paper clip) 120 tonnes of steel would be saved each year



It's a fact:

Tropical rainforests are home to more kinds of plants and animals than anywhere else on Earth

Forests can be used without destroying the environment. This is called sustainable forest management. This protects the world's forests and still allows forest dwellers to make a living. Look for the FSC logo, it will tell you that the wood used is from a well-managed forest.



Friends of the Earth's Youth and Education Programme provides a range of publications exploring sustainable development, citizenship and environmental issues, designed to be used within a class, youth groups or by individual young people.

Why not read other leaflets in the Mad about... series?
For details telephone 020 7490 1555 or write to:
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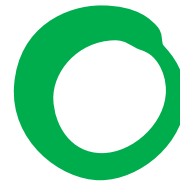


Friends of the Earth inspires solutions to environmental problems, which make life better for people

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Mad about... tropical rainforests



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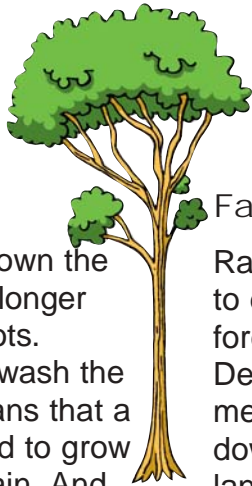
Are you mad about rainforests?

The rainforests contain over half of all wild plants and animals on the planet. But the forests and their wildlife are disappearing fast



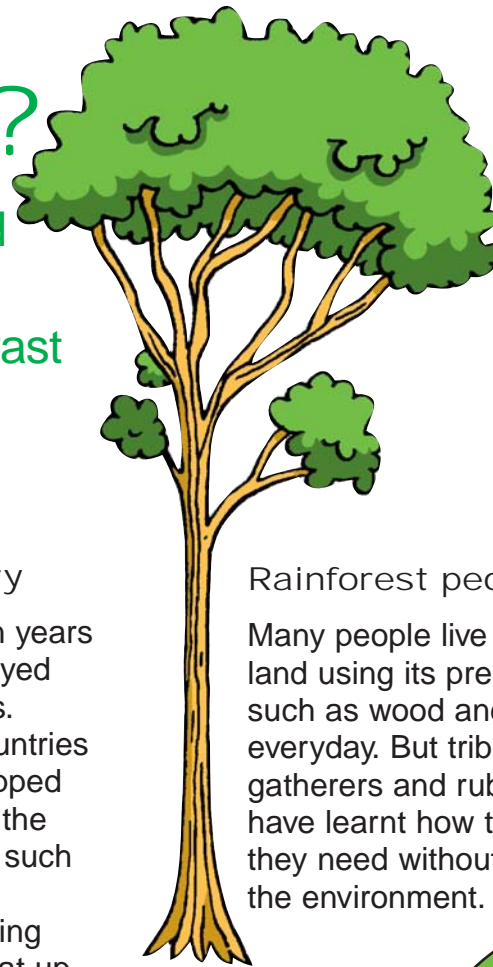
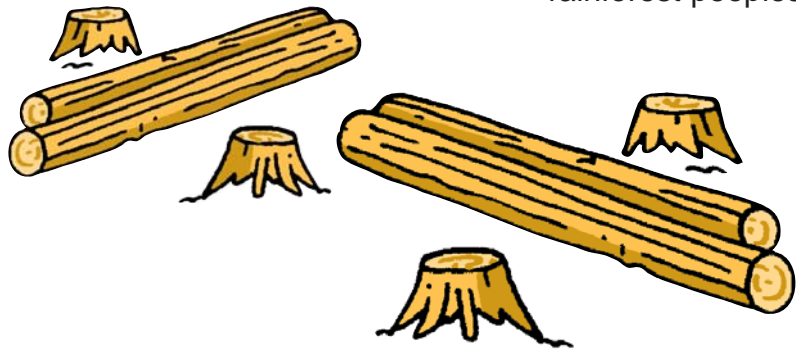
Important trees

When loggers chop down the trees, the soil can no longer hold on to the tree roots. Rainwater can easily wash the soil away. No soil means that a new forest finds it hard to grow in the same place again. And even if new trees do grow it'll never be as rich in wildlife again. Many plants and animals do not survive without the rainforest.



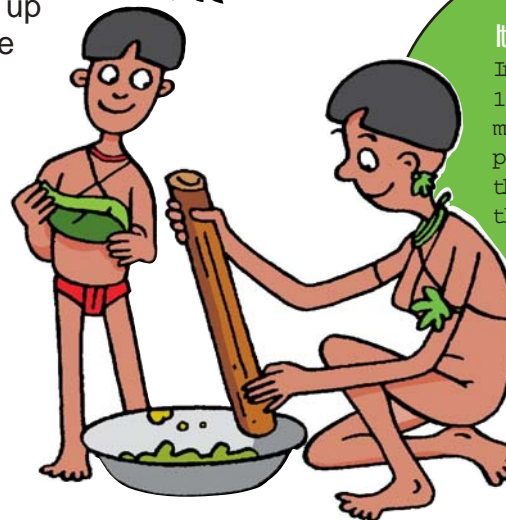
Farming and industry

Rainforest that has taken years to develop can be destroyed forever by people in days. Demands from richer countries mean that trees are chopped down for their wood and the land dug up for minerals such as aluminium and gold. Large farms, timber-logging and mining companies eat up the forests and threaten the homes and lives of all rainforest peoples.



Rainforest people

Many people live on rainforest land using its precious riches such as wood and food everyday. But tribal people, nut gatherers and rubber tappers have learnt how to take all that they need without destroying the environment.



It's a fact:

In 1900, Brazil had 1,000,000 (one million) tribal people. Today, there are fewer than 200,000



Help stop the rainforest chop

Start cutting back

- Use less paper at home and at school and make sure it's recycled paper. Write on both sides of a sheet and encourage your school to set up a recycling scheme.
- Choose items that can be used again and again. Re-usable things don't use up the Earth's precious resources.
- Ask your family to recycle unwanted wood. If your local council doesn't run a recycling scheme ask it to set one up.

Shop wisely

- When buying something new, especially wooden products, choose recycled or buy second-hand.
- Tell everyone you know to buy wooden goods only if they have the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) logo (see over).
- Avoid buying throwaway paper products like cups, plates and kitchen roll.

Mad about... tropical rainforests

Logging and mining damage the rainforest habitat, threatening the homes of many tribal people.

Help save the rainforest. Toucans can't survive without trees!

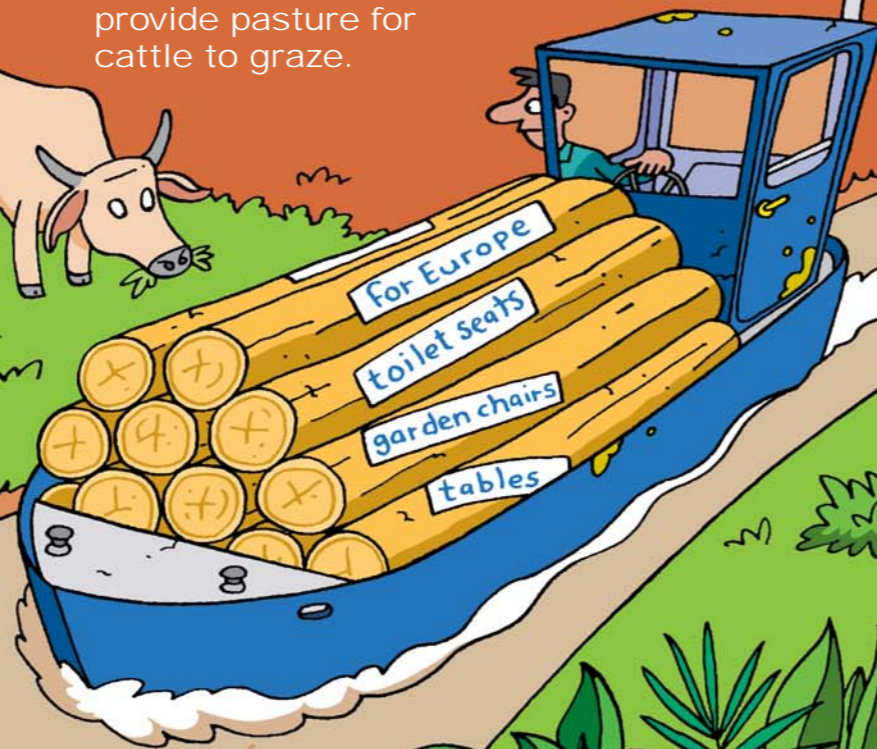
Destroying rainforests harms wildlife. The orang-utan, spider monkey and the scarlet macaw are now all endangered creatures.

Only use or buy anything made from tropical timber if it has the FSC logo. This will help save the rainforest.

Many of our favourite foods first came from the rainforest.

People have lived in the rainforests for thousands of years, and many different tribes still live there.

Much of the rainforest has been cleared to provide pasture for cattle to graze.



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