

# Is deforestation a problem?





## Key Vocabulary

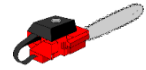
camouflage	animals hide themselves by blending into its surroundings
carbon dioxide	gas released when fuel is burned and when animals and humans breathe / plants use up carbon dioxide
climate	weather and temperature usually found in a particular area
deforestation	is the permanent destruction of forests in order to make the land available for other uses.
ecosystem	all the living and non-living things in an area
extinct	an animal or plant species that has died out completely
habitat	the place where a living thing makes its home
humid	having a high level of moisture in the air
oxygen	gas released by plants / breathed in by animals and humans
vegetation	the plant life growing in a certain area

## Where in the World?

Rainforest habitats are forests located around the tropics, which is a zone around the equator, and are mainly found in Africa, Asia, Australia, Central America and South America. The largest rainforest habitat in the world is the Amazon rainforest in South America. Temperate rainforests are not as warm so there aren't as many plants. These are located along the northwest coast of North America, and in parts of Chile, New Zealand and Australia.

## Deforestation

<p>Logging</p> 	Trees are cut down to sell and make furniture with. They are also turned into charcoal. Huge areas of forest are cut down in one go. Roads are created which causes even more damage.
<p>Cattle Ranching</p> 	Forests are being burned down to make way for cattle farming, supplying beef to the rest of the world. Soil soon becomes dry, and cattle farmers have to move on leaving a trail of destruction behind.
<p>Mining and Oil Companies</p> 	The demand for minerals and metals such as oil, aluminium, copper, gold and diamonds mean that rainforests are destroyed to access the ground below. Chemicals used can often end up in rivers, polluting water supplies.
<p>Dams</p> 	Large dams are used to help with the creation of electricity. This is seen as 'clean' energy but has resulted in the flooding of large areas of rainforest.



## Impact of Deforestation

Over half of the world's rainforest has been lost.
28,000 species of animals are expected to become extinct in the next 25 years.
Local people's homes are destroyed.
Levels of carbon dioxide in the air are increasing and oxygen is decreasing.
Deforestation is considered the second major cause of climate change, responsible for up to 25% of global carbon dioxide emissions
Every year about 18million hectares of forest - an area the size of England and Wales - is cleared

