

Tropical Treasure Hunt

Students participate in an Internet Treasure Hunt, using clues to discover information about rain forests.

S t e p s . . .

1. Introduce Activity

An Internet treasure hunt involves searching the Internet to find the answers to specific questions. Generally, the questions and related Internet links are organized on one Web page which encourages students to remain focused on the activity. Explain to students that they will be working in teams to explore questions about tropical rain forests. Log on to the Internet and demonstrate how to locate the Tropical Treasure Hunt page (<http://home.att.net/~candlers/tropical.htm>). Bookmark the site, since students will want to return to this page many times during their treasure hunt. Scroll through the page and explain that students will be answering the questions by searching the Web sites listed at the bottom of the page.

2. Explain Jigsaw

Divide the class into Base Teams of four students each,

and number students off from one to four. *"For this activity, we will use a study method called 'Jigsaw.' These teams of four are your Base Teams. Within your Base Teams, each team member will only be responsible for finding the answers to two questions and will become an "expert" on these areas. You will work with other experts to learn about your two areas. Then you will meet back together to share that information with the other members of your Base Team."*

3. Form Expert Groups

Give each student a copy of the two-page Tropical Treasure Hunt handout. When forming Expert Groups, refer to the geometric shapes around each number on the worksheet. Within each Base Team, Student #1's are Circles, Student #2's are Triangles, Student #3's are Diamonds, and Student #4's are Pentagons. To form Expert Groups, ask students

Cooperative Structures

- Jigsaw
- Mix-Freeze-Pair
- RoundRobin
- Team Discussion

Content Areas

- Science
- Social Studies
- Reading
- Language Arts

Materials

- Computer with Internet access
- Tropical Treasure Hunt note pages
(1 set per person)
- Speak Out! worksheet
(1 per person)

Multiple Intelligences

- Verbal/Linguistic
- Visual/Spatial
- Interpersonal
- Intrapersonal

Internet Link

Tropical Treasure Hunt
<http://home.att.net/~candlers/tropical.htm>



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to move to four different corners of the room designated Circles, Triangles, Diamonds, and Pentagons.

4. Research Answers

By referring to the shapes, students can see the questions they are responsible for answering. (The Circles will answer 1 and 5, the Triangles are responsible for 2 and 6, the Diamonds will respond to 3 and 7, and the Pentagons will look for answers to 4 and 8.) Allow the members of each Expert Group to work together as they search the Internet to answer the two questions. Have them record their answers on their worksheets, and remind them to cite their Internet sources for each answer. If you don't have four Internet computers, you may want to work out a rotation system to allow each team adequate research time at the computer. You might also want to consider using a program such as Web Whacker to harvest the sites needed during the treasure hunt.

5. Return to Base Teams

When students have had adequate time to explore their two questions, have them return to their original Base Teams.

6. RoundRobin

In RoundRobin fashion, have students share the information they learned. Starting with Question #1, Student #1 explains the answer while the others jot notes on their handout. Then Student #2 shares the information concerning Question #2 and so on. Allow plenty of time for this sharing session.

7. Team Discussion

Pose each of the following questions to the class, one at a time. Allow time for teams to discuss their ideas before sharing their thoughts with the class.

- *Why are rain forests important to us, even if we don't live near one and might never visit one?*
- *What do you think would happen if all rain forests were destroyed?*
- *What do you think should be done about the rain forest problem?*

8. Individuals Write

Give each person one copy of the Speak Out! page. *"Think about the creatures of the rain forest. Imagine yourself as a rain forest animal who has been given the power to speak. What would you say to humans about the rain forest problem? Be sure to tell why the rain forest is important and what you think should be done about the problem."* Artistic students may wish to draw their own animals and speech bubbles rather than using the worksheet provided.

9. Mix-Freeze-Pair

Finally, ask students to stand up and quietly mix around the room with their animal speeches in

hand. Call out “Freeze!” and then “Pair!” When all students are in pairs, have them read their speeches to each other. If time allows and students are interested, repeat the Mix-Freeze-Pair sequence to allow them the opportunity to share their speech with another class member.

Extensions

- **Participate in a Web Quest** – Web Quests are more complex than Treasure Hunts, but they are perfect for cooperative learning investigations. *Under the Umbrella of the Tropical Rainforest* is an excellent Web Quest created by Carole Girouard, a high school Media Specialist in New Bedford, Massachusetts. Since the activity is divided into four parts, Jigsaw would be an ideal structure to use with this investigation. To find this Web Quest on the Internet, point your browser to <http://www.gnbvoc.mec.edu/rainforest>.
- **Create Your Own Internet Activities** – Teachers interested in creating their own Internet activities will enjoy visiting a Web site sponsored by Pacific Bell called Filamentality (<http://www.kn.pacbell.com/wired/fil/>). Without any knowledge of Web site construction, visitors to the site can create their own Treasure Hunts, Web Quests, Hotlists, and more. Better yet, those activities are available immediately on the World Wide Web at no charge.

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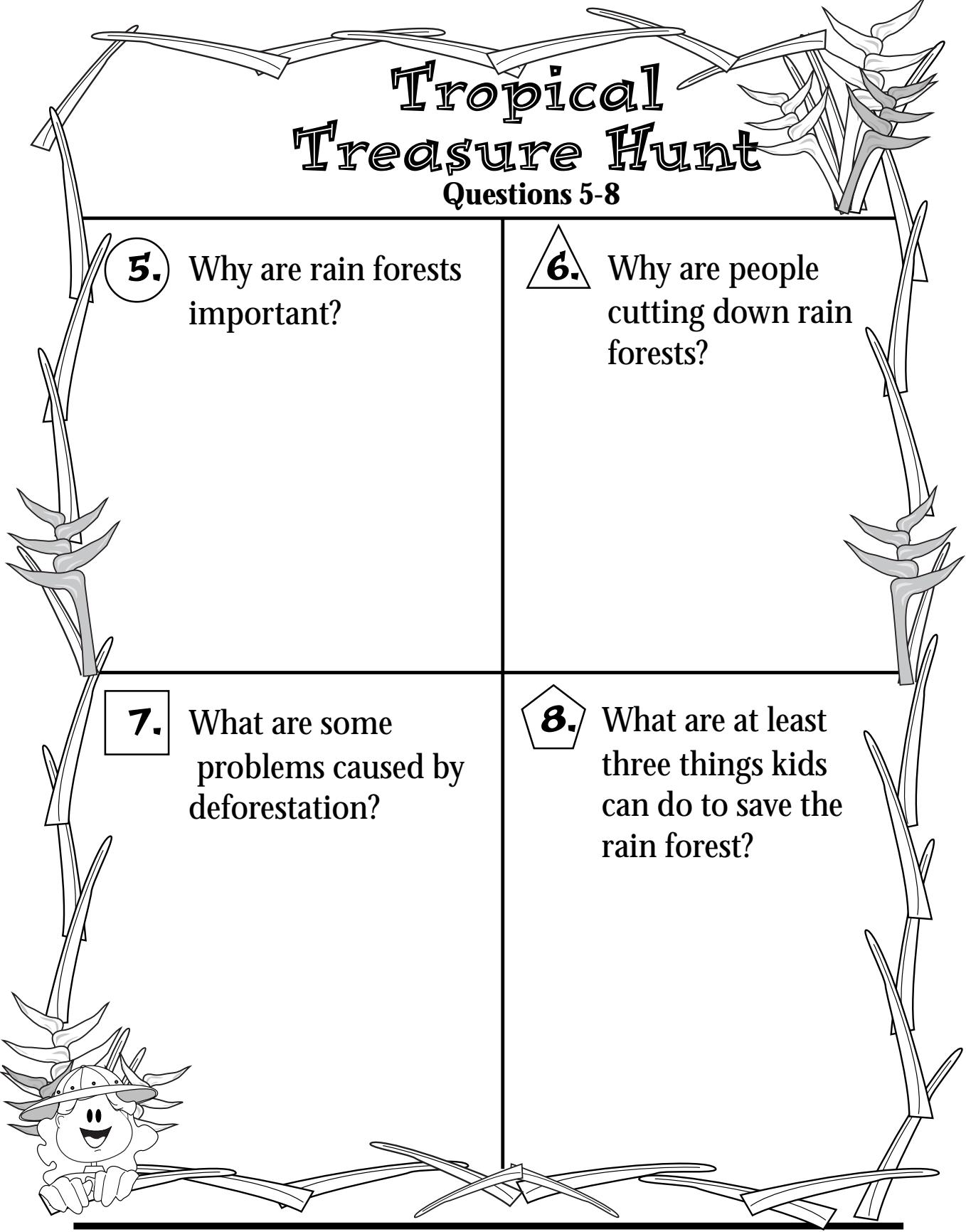
Questions 1-4

1. Where in the world are rain forests located?

2. What is the climate of a rain forest like?

3. What kinds of plants and animals live there?

4. What are the layers in the rain forest? Name and describe each one.



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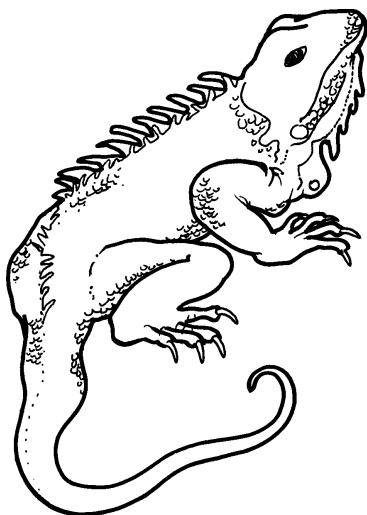
Questions 5-8

5. Why are rain forests important?

6. Why are people cutting down rain forests?

7. What are some problems caused by deforestation?

8. What are at least three things kids can do to save the rain forest?



**Speak
Out!**

Name _____