

GOAL 15: LIFE ON LAND



Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss



PURPOSE

To explore what will happen locally and globally if we continue to cut down rainforest at the current rate.

MATERIALS

Set of 'A World without Rainforests Cards' per group (see next page for worksheet)

ACTIVITY (30 MINUTES)

Explain that while much is being done to protect the rainforest, it is still under threat from destruction. Every minute an area the equivalent to 25 football pitches is being destroyed. This activity will show what will happen if we continue to destroy rainforest at this rate.

Put the young people into groups of 4 or 5 and give them a set of 'A World without Rainforest' cards. They must sort the cards into 2 categories: 'How forest clearance

affects the people, plants and animals that live in the rainforest' and 'How forest clearance affects us globally'.

They should have 7 cards in the 'How forest clearance affects us globally' pile. Now they must rank these 7 cards according to which issues they think are most important and which issues are least important. They can rank the cards with the 2 most important at the top and the 2 least important at the bottom.

Groups can share their most important and least important issues and discuss their choices.

DISCUSSION

Use the information gathered from the cards to talk about the impacts on forests, people, biodiversity and climate change. Encourage them to reflect on both the global and local impacts.

WORKSHEET FOR GOAL 15

LIFE ON LAND



A World without rainforests cards

Rainforest plants are used to make medicine to help find cures for diseases. If the forests are destroyed we lose the chance to discover important new medicines.

Rainforests pump heat from the hot regions of the world to the cooler regions, and without them the climate will change.

When the forest is cut down the people who live there lose their homes, livelihoods and way of life.

Tree canopies provide shade, cooling the environment around them.

More than half of the world's animal species live in the rainforest. When the forest is destroyed species die out and important biodiversity is lost.

Forests protect the soil from the rain. Without them the soil is washed away into the creeks and rivers and can cause flooding.

WORKSHEET CONT.



Forests absorb and store carbon. When the forest is cleared the carbon is released as carbon dioxide which contributes to climate change.

The rainforests have evolved over millions of years and once they have been cut down it takes many years for them to regrow.

People living in and around the rainforests depend on fresh water to grow their crops and stay healthy. As the forest is cut down the water supply falls as the rainfall decreases.

Trees are cut down to plant soybeans and palm oil trees. Chemicals sprayed onto these trees pollute the rivers, kill many of the fish, destroy people's crops and can cause health problems.

Trees absorb carbon dioxide and release oxygen and purify the air we breathe. Without the trees of the rainforest our air will be more polluted.



From
www.ourforestourfuture.org.uk

SUMMARY 

Summary

GOAL 15

Forests cover nearly 31 percent of our planet's land area. From the air we breathe, to the water we drink, to the food we eat forests sustain us. However, forests continue to be chopped down at an alarming rate. Encourage the young people to think about how their local actions can have global impacts.

TARGETS

- Protect and conserve ecosystems (for example, deserts and rainforests) by respecting signed international agreements.
- Reduce deforestation and plant more trees in order to reforest.
- Combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil.
- Ensure conservation of mountain ecosystems, including their biodiversity.
- Protect and urgently prevent the extinction of endangered species: stop uncontrolled hunting and trafficking of protected species of flora and fauna. Involve indigenous communities in this process.

ACTIVITY

Use activity cards to explore what will happen locally and globally if we continue to cut down rainforests.

TAKE IT FURTHER

> Watch the video:

<https://vimeo.com/194425715>

> Talk about why forests are so important to indigenous women. Why they need to be involved in conservation efforts and work with policymakers to make decisions regarding this ecosystem which is so rich in biodiversity.

> For more information on climate change and forests visit:

www.forestsforthefuture.co.uk

– a resource investigating trees, forests and climate change.

GO TO GOAL 16 