

RainForest Scavenger Hunt Answers: Grades 9-12

1. Humans and animals rely on a wide variety of plants and trees as food sources. A wide range of plants and trees are utilized for their medicinal properties as well. Further, humans all over the world rely on various wood and other plant materials to construct shelters. It is important to maintain the biodiversity of all plants, because each one has a specific role in its ecosystem. The extinction of any organism, plant or animal, will affect the future of others.
2. Frogs are amphibians. Snakes, crocodiles, lizards, geckos, tortoises, and turtles are all reptiles.
3. Invertebrates that eat leaf litter are helping to fertilize the plants around them. The waste of these invertebrates is full of rich nutrients that plants absorb which helps plants grow. Without these invertebrates, the ground would be covered in dead leaves and the soil would be smothered.
4. The Cleveland Metroparks Zoo works with other conservation organizations to support law enforcement and confiscation efforts in Asia to crack down on poachers. The Zoo and its partners also build awareness in Asia through public education programs and other campaigns to teach people the value of and importance of the conservation of these species and support conservation centers which house and protect turtles and tortoises.
5. Always research the source of the products you purchase. When you can, buy locally. Meat and plants harvested in South and Central America typically come from farms on cleared rainforest land. When purchasing wood or timber products, look for the Forest Stewardship Council seal of approval for sustainably harvested wood. Do not purchase items with palm oil, unless it is certified sustainable.
6. Indigenous peoples and wildlife face similar threats in many ecosystems. Many indigenous peoples have deep connections to their environment and the animals they share it with; they have a strong desire to protect these animals.
7. If you are looking for a pet, research the store or seller you are considering purchasing from. Ask where the seller sources its animals. Are they captive-bred, or are they taken from the wild? Research the pet you are interested in; wild animals do not make good pets. Domesticated animals make the best pets, as they are tame and friendly. Also, do not promote wild pets by “liking” or sharing videos of wild pets online.
8. Plants have many defense mechanisms. Some plants are toxic; they contain toxins that will hurt or kill animals that eat them. Some plants have thorns or bristles, which protects them from hungry herbivores. Other plants are covered in thick bark or skin that many animals can’t break through.
9. Monkeys usually, but not always, have tails; apes do not have tails. Monkeys are almost always found in trees; apes live both in trees and on the ground. Monkeys are generally smaller overall and have smaller brains compared to apes. Apes often walk on their back feet while monkeys almost always walk on all four feet.
10. Because each female only has one baby every 5-8 years, orangutan populations are fragile. It takes a long time for orangutan populations to recover after they have been endangered from deforestation or poaching. If more orangutans are killed or die than are being born, the orangutan population will continue to decrease.

