

## Impacts of deforestation on the Malaysian rainforest

### Student activity:

Read all the statements below. Shade the key with four different colours and then shade the statements according to which of the four categories they link to:

### Key:

Why is deforestation happening?	Resources of the Malaysian rainforest	Local impacts	Global impacts
11371 species of trees grow in the Malaysian rainforest.	Minerals provide the region with a vast natural resource. They include oil, gas and gold.		Transmigration has led to land covered in rainforest being cleared for new settlements.
Deforestation has a direct effect on global climates, contributing to the Greenhouse effect.	Deforestation has an impact on the worlds oxygen supply, as one third is stored in the rainforests.		Large multi-national companies use the land to run cattle farms, to sell beef to developed countries.
Deforestation is driven by profit. Short terms gains leading to long term impacts.	Soil erosion is a major problem as the removal of plants can wash soil away in hours.		Deforestation is happening faster in the Malaysian rainforest than any other in the world.
Some of the cattle ranchers and settlements have been abandoned, due to poor soil quality on the previous rainforest area.	Development of mining, farming and tourism will provide jobs for people.		Fires from slash and burn can get out on control damaging wide areas of rainforest adding CO <sub>2</sub> into the atmosphere.
As large areas of the rainforest are cut down there is a loss in biodiversity.	Evaporation uses up heat and cools the air. Deforestation reduces this causes temperatures to rise.		Hydro-electric power is an important renewable resource. The Bakun Dam Project in Sarawak has flooded 230km <sup>2</sup> of rainforest.
To allow access for mining in Malaysia, the government has developed a series of roads into the rainforest.	There is a growing need for land to be used for products - palm oil and rubber.		The rainforest is used as a world tourist site and is protected as a world heritage site.
Tress give off moisture through transpiration, when they are cut down this decreases and gives a drier climate.	Between 1956-1980, 15000ha was cut down to build new settlements.		Improvement in infrastructure has led to developments in tourism and industrial output.
HEP will provide cheap electricity.	Pollution of waterways can lead to water shortages.		Medicinal plants could be lost.
Soil becomes infertile (not as nutrient rich) as the canopy layer is removed and the rainfall can remove more of the soil.	Tree roots bind soil together. Soil takes thousands of years to form.		Timber, mainly hardwoods, is taken for markets in developed countries. This is a valuable source of income for Malaysia.

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### Teacher answers

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