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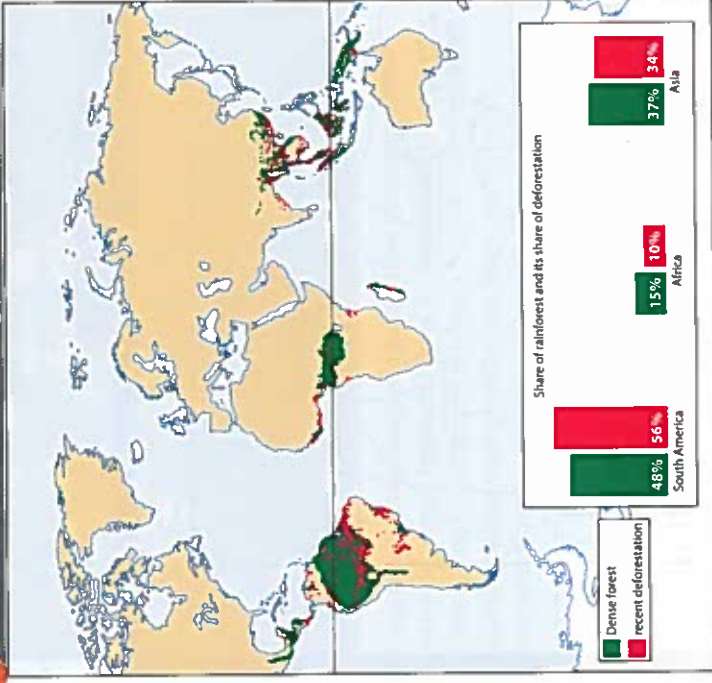
Rainforest deforestation

Deforestation – an important rainforest issue

Deforestation of the tropical rainforest has been an issue for many years. Most concerns have been about the Amazon rainforest, which accounts for over 50 per cent of all the deforestation taking place. Most deforestation began with small-scale subsistence farmers' practice of shifting

cultivation. Clearings were made, crops grown and animals hunted, then the tribes moved on to allow for regrowth. Little permanent damage was done. However, in the last 50 years so much rainforest has been removed that there are concerns it could all disappear in the 21st century. While there is much to gain from exploiting rainforest resources, there needs to be an awareness of the part they play in maintaining the planet by supplying oxygen, absorbing carbon and providing water to the atmosphere for rainfall elsewhere in the world.

A Where is deforestation taking place?



B Why are forests being cleared?

Percentage of global deforestation

South America	Africa	Asia
56	10	34

Why deforestation is taking place (figures in %)

	South America	Africa	Asia
Small-scale agriculture	40	50	40
Commercial crops	20	20	24
Cattle ranching	20	5	1
Logging	12	15	25
Fuelwood	8	10	10
All figures in %	100	100	100

TASK 1: Study Source A

- a On an outline map of the world, create your own map of deforestation.
 - b Compare the share of rainforest that each of the three main regions has.
 - c Which region is causing:
 - most concern about deforestation
 - least concern about deforestation?
- Give reasons for your answer.

TASK 2: Study Source B

- a Using a radius scale of 1 mm = 1%, draw three circles using the figures shown for the percentage of global deforestation.

- b Within the three circles, draw pie charts using the figures showing why deforestation is taking place.
- c List the five main reasons for deforestation.
- d Which land use accounts for most deforestation in all three continents?

TASK 3: Study Source C

- a Describe the scene in the photograph.
- b What is:
 - slash-and-burn farming?
 - shifting cultivation?
- c Put the eight captions into the correct time order. Use them to produce your own storyboard.
- d Suggest some consequences of deforestation for the rainforest and the wildlife that live there.

C Deforestation affects soils and vegetation



- The ash supplies nutrients.
- Heavy rainfall eventually washes nutrients and soil into rivers.
- People set fire to the trees – a practice called slash-and-burn farming.
- Rainforest is destroyed.
- Crops grow well for a number of years.
- Crops no longer grow on the infertile soil.
- Animals lose habitats and food.
- People go elsewhere to remove more rainforest. This is called shifting cultivation.

D What are the main threats?

BRAZIL ALLOWS MORE CATTLE RANCHING WHILE PROTECTING TRIBES

Vincente Riva has been farming in the rainforest area for 30 years. He owns 10 000 hectares of rainforest and has been given a licence to clear 1000 more hectares and expand his herd of 850 cattle. In the 1970s, the government sold large amounts of rainforest cheaply to people to reduce the population of its cities. In return, the farmers had to provide infrastructure such as roads to open up the rainforest. Now the local economies of small towns depend on cattle ranching for jobs. 'If the government gave us US\$750 per hectare we can preserve the forest while still earning from the cleared land,' he said.

Adapted from Rainforests – The Burning Issue

Tribal issue: The Brazilian government has promised to drive out illegal loggers from the Amazon reserve of the Awa tribe, listed as one of the world's most threatened people. The loggers have already cut down 30% of the rainforest in the tribal territory. About 100 members of the tribe have had no contact with the outside world. They are vulnerable to disease and are afraid to hunt in case they meet armed loggers.

Adapted from *The Times*, 8 January 2014

RAINFOREST STILL FAIRLY INTACT!

The 135 million hectares of rainforest of Central West Africa in D.R. Congo still remains largely intact. This is due to the government's heavy taxes on forestry investment, wars, plus the Livingstone Falls on the Congo river which limits access. More than half the population, 35 million people, live or depend on the forest resources. Logging production is low as yet, but the forests have been opened up to farmers and commercial hunters who supply bushmeat to cities. Species such as bonobo, elephants and the white rhino are becoming endangered. Yet if controls are put in place, and the Amazon continues to be destroyed, D.R. Congo may soon have the world's greatest rainforest.

Adapted from Rainforests – The Burning Issue

Tribal issue: The 'Pygmy' tribes are all under threat across central Africa; tribes such as the Twa, Aka, Baka and Mbuti. All have different languages and hunting traditions but all face the same threats: racism, logging and conservation, leading to loss of tribal lands, serious health issues and violent abuse.

Adapted from *Survival – The Pygmies*

A WORLD WILLING TO FRY FOR PRIZE OF 'GREEN GOLD'

From the air, the palm oil plantations are quietly impressive. Up close it is ecological chaos. Burning, cutting and noise from chainsaws taking down rainforest and palms. Indonesia and Malaysia form 90% of the market, but China and other growing economies also have an appetite for fried food. Over 3.8 million people depend on palm oil for employment in this region. Palm oil has two main uses: for cooking and in vehicles as a renewable fuel. In the many islands of Indonesia, though, there remain tribes that are under threat from the outside world.

Tribal issue: The Kajang tribe live on the island of Sulawesi in Indonesia, and have asked for a legal court ruling to own their land before too much logging occurs. Other tribes have lost their tribal lands to clove, cocoa and coffee plantations

Adapted from *The Times*, 11 December 2009

- e Source D refers to several different tribes in different rainforests. In groups of three, allocate each person a different tribe. Carry out research on the internet into:
 - the way of life of the tribe
 - how it has been affected by deforestation
 - what the future holds for the tribe.