

Time: - minutes

Aim: to study desert and reinfrest ecosystems.

Key Vocabulary: desert, rainforest, species of plants, survive, cactus, scorpion, sharp tail, kill, prey, lizard, rattlesnake, camel, ecosystem, weather, warm, humid, lianas, palm tree, aguar, anteater, turtle, iguana, eagle, owl, piranha, native Amazonians, wood

Key Language: eserts get very little rain. There are also lizards and snakes. The Amazon rainforest is the biggest rainforest in the world.

Materials:

- Pictures/photos of deserts and rainforests
- A world map or a globe
- Worksheet.

Warm-up

- Draw two columns on the board. Write *animals* at the top of the first column and *weather* at the top of the other. Elicit from the class as many relevant words as possible and write them in the two columns, e.g., animals: *dog, cat, parrot, snake, crocodile, eagle*; weather: *sunny, rainy, windy, cloudy, cold, hot*.

Completing the Worksheet

Activity 1

- Show the students a picture of a desert or write *desert* on the board. Write *animals, plants, weather*, etc. Elicit information about deserts from the class. Ask the students questions like *What animals live in deserts? What's the weather like in deserts? Are there any plants in deserts?* Write some of their answers on the board.
- Show the class a map of the world or a globe and ask the students to find some deserts.
- Write the words *animals, small, night, cactus, tail, travel*, and *biggest* on the board. Go through the words with the class and check comprehension.

- Ask the students to read Activity 2 and complete the text with the words in the box. Then read through the text with the class and check for understanding.
- Explain that *a desert is an ecosystem. An ecosystem is an area where climate, landscape, animals and plants interact.*

Key: 1. biggest; 2. night; 3. cactus; 4. small; 5. tail; 6. animals; 7. travel

Activity 2

- Show the students a picture of a rainforest. Write on the board *weather, plants* and *animals*. Elicit information from the class and invite students to write some of the words on the board, e.g., weather: *rain, hot*; plants: *palm trees*; animals: *monkeys, snakes*.
- Show the students a map of the world or a globe and ask them to find some rainforests.
- Write some true/false sentences about the Amazon rainforest on the board. Ask the students to copy them in their notebooks and discuss in small groups whether they think they are true or false, e.g., *It's cold in the Amazon rainforest. (F) There a lot of animals and plants. (T) Nobody lives in the Amazon rainforest. (F)*
- Ask the students to read the information in the table in Activity 2. Encourage them to write the words they don't understand in their notebooks and try to guess their meaning. Explain any words they can't guess using pictures, mime and simple explanations.
- The students order and write the sentences about the Amazon rainforest. Help with vocabulary and check answers with the class when they have finished.
- Explain that *the rainforest is an ecosystem with its animals, plants, microorganisms, weather, landscape, water, light*, etc. Stress that *rainforests are very important because lots of animals and plants live in them. Rainforests produce a lot of oxygen which is necessary for the air we breathe.*

Rainforests clean the air. People are destroying the rainforests because they are cutting down lots of trees. If there are no trees, the animals die. It's important to protect the rainforest.

Key:

1. *Native Amazonians live in the Amazon rainforest.*
2. *They live in houses made of wood and plants.*
3. *The Amazon rainforest is the biggest rainforest in the world.*
4. *20% of the world's species of birds live in the Amazon rainforest.*
5. *There are also a lot of insects, plants and mammals.*
6. *People destroy big areas of the rainforest every year.*
7. *The Amazon rainforest produces about 20% of the Earth's oxygen.*
8. *The Amazon river is the second longest river in the world.*
9. *The Trans-Amazonian Highway is a road that crosses the Amazon rainforest.*
10. *It is 4,800 km long.*

Extension activity

- Bring a student to the front of the class. Encourage the student to talk about the Amazon rainforest using the information in the table. Say one of the topics in the table and encourage the student to talk about it:

Teacher: *Plants.*

Student 1: *In the rainforest there are lots of trees, lianas, palm trees and grass.*

Teacher: *Animals.*

Student 2: *In the rainforest there are a lot of animals. There are monkeys, jaguars and anteaters.*

- Students can then continue in the same way in small groups if you wish.
- Ask them to draw a picture of the rainforest in their notebooks and write some sentences about it.