

# 5<sup>th</sup> Grade ELA Work Packet

Week of January 25-29, 2021

Name \_\_\_\_\_

\*Please do not begin any assignments until instructed by Ms. Eggink.\*



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### What is Biodiversity and Why do We Care About it?

The variety of living things in a given place—whether a small stream, an extensive desert, all the forests in the world, the oceans, or the entire planet—is called its biodiversity, which is short for biological diversity. In general, tropical regions, with their long growing seasons, have greater biodiversity than temperate ones, while areas with very harsh conditions, such as Antarctica, are low in biodiversity. Biodiversity is important to the health of the world's ecosystems. "Biodiversity" is a term that was coined by joining the words "biological" and "diversity". This contraction is now routinely used to discuss the high number and wide variety of organisms in the world, including humankind.

Biodiversity provides food for humans. About 80 percent of our food supply comes from just 20 kinds of plants. Humans use at least 40,000 species of plants and animals a day. Although many kinds of animals are utilized as food, again most consumption is focused on a few species. There are also many people in the world who depend on these species for their food, shelter, and clothing.

#### **Benefits of Biodiversity**

Biodiversity relies upon ecological systems completing and complementing each other. The food chain is a good example. Soil nurtures plants, plants are eaten by animals, and animals are raised and used by humans for a variety of purposes. If one link of this chain were to go missing the chain would be destroyed. And if one link of this chain were changed, the entire chain would be different. Today there is enough biodiversity to support a multitude of chains, all of which can benefit humans. Just a few of these benefits include:

- Food. As has already been described, the variety of natural and organic plants found around the world feed animals and humans alike.
- Beverages. Much the same as food, the diversity of natural materials provide an abundance of ingredients for beverages.
- Medicine. Most medicines are derived from natural ingredients, most specifically plants. Many antibiotics are also derived from living micro-organisms such as bacteria and fungi.
- Building materials. Rubber, oil, certain types of fibres, dyes and adhesives all come from natural origins.

#### **Threats to Biodiversity**

The major threat to biodiversity is extinction. Any type of plant or animal can die out, meaning that in its absence, all of the ecosystems that it inhabited (the chains of which

it was a link) must change or risk dying out themselves. Either option will have a profound effect on the ecosystem's output, which in turn affects the "ingredients" it will produce for human consumption, thus altering humans' lifestyles as well. Some of the major threats to biodiversity include:

- Hunting, or more specifically over-hunting. Killing animals obviously reduces their numbers and endangers their species.
- Habitat loss. Often habitats are demolished, for example to make way for buildings and roads. A specific type of habitat loss is deforestation, or cutting down trees.
- Invasion by foreign species. The introduction of non-native species (for example, stocking a pond with fish from another part of the world) again means that an ecosystem must cope with a threat to its natural order.
- Pollution. Pollution contaminates natural ecosystems and again poses a threat.
- Climate change. Differing temperatures, amounts of snowfall or rainfall and a variety of other symptoms of climate change can all affect ecosystems in a given area.

### **Protecting Biodiversity**

Protecting biodiversity is fairly easy. The world works quite well the way it was designed, so all humans need to do is let it function! In fact, the best way to protect biodiversity is to simply limit any threats to it. For example:

- Do not participate in, and urge others not to participate in, hunting for sport or poaching.
- Protest against deforestation or any other type of habitat loss for the sake of newer or cheaper products for humans.
- Do not introduce foreign species to local habitats.
- Cut down your "carbon footprint" which leads to pollution and ultimately climate change. Reduce, reuse and recycle whenever possible.

Biodiversity is a complicated word that has a simple meaning. The diversity of nature can be seen all around us, but sadly we must be sure to protect it now that it is under threat. Do your part to reduce, reuse and recycle whenever possible and enjoy the rich varieties of plants, animals and habitats all around you. You never know when you might not have another chance!

1. What is biodiversity and why should we preserve it?

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2. How is the text organized?

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3. What is the purpose of the text?

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## Conservation

How many plants and animals live near you? Probably more than you think. Just in one backyard lies a tiny universe of plants and animals that are all dependent on one another and the environment for survival. For example, you probably have earthworms in your soil. The earthworms help keep the soil healthy so plants can grow. The plants feed many animals, including birds, squirrels and rabbits. If you grow a garden, the plants may even feed you. The earthworms become lunch for snakes, frogs and rabbits. Likewise, these small animals are eaten by predators, such as larger snakes, coyotes, owls, fox and hawks.

If one part of this ecosystem is destroyed, everything else becomes unbalanced. For example, if the coyotes leave, the rabbits become too numerous. They eat all the plants – including your lovely garden. Soon, the rabbits are hungry, along with other animals. Maybe even you.

Now imagine the number of ecosystems found all over the world. Everywhere you look, nature is in delicate balance. Don't think because you're human and buy your food at a grocery store, you're not affected. Every living thing on the planet depends on other living things for survival.

What does Conservation mean? Conservation seems like a big word, but it is actually very simple. It means understanding nature's balance and not taking more than your fair share.

### Fun Facts About Environment Conservation:

- Governments work together to protect endangered species. They make it illegal to kill these animals or sell their furs and skins. Governments also set aside nature preserves where animals are always protected.

- Unfortunately, laws protecting animals only work if they're enforced. In some places, poachers illegally kill endangered animals, but are rarely caught.
- Reserves are a good idea, but only 12.1 percent of the Earth's land surface is covered by reserves. We need more to protect wildlife.
- You can practice conservation. Pick up trash. Follow the rules when you're hiking, camping or fishing to protect wild places. Don't leave the trails and don't take plants or animals.

#### Conservation Q&A

- Question: What else can I do to help?

**Answer:** Use resources wisely. Turn off the water when you're brushing your teeth and don't throw clean clothes in the dirty laundry. Recycle paper, plastic and glass.

- Question: What is being done to help protect the Earth?

**Answer:** All sorts of projects are happening that helps save the Earth. One of them is the conservation movement, also known as nature conservation. It is a political, environmental and a social movement that seeks to protect natural resources including animal, fungus and plant species as well as their habitat for the future.

- Question: Is the Conservation Movement the same as environmentalism?

**Answer:** In the United States, conservation is seen as differing from environmentalism in that it aims to preserve natural resources for their continued sustainable use by humans. In other parts of the world, conservation is used for the active protection of wildlife for their inherent value, as much as for any value they may have for humans.



Vocabulary:

**Ecological:** concerned with the relation of living organisms to one another and to their physical surroundings.

**Sustainable:** using natural resources without destroying the ecological balance of an area.

**Species:** kind, sort or variety of something

**Environment:** the natural world



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Claim: Plants and animals are all dependent on each other and the environment for survival.

Detail that supports claim:

Detail that supports claim:

Claim: Conservation means understanding nature's balance and not taking more than your fair share.

Detail that supports claim:

Detail that supports claim:

Claim: Conservation is different from Environmentalism.

Detail that supports claim:

Detail that supports claim:

Write your own!

Claim:

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Detail that supports claim:

Detail that supports claim:

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## Deforestation Guided Notes

### Disappearing Rainforests

- We are losing Earth's greatest treasures just as we are beginning to appreciate their true value.
- Rainforests once covered 14% of the earth's land surface; now they cover a mere \_\_\_% and experts estimate that the last remaining rainforests could be destroyed in less than \_\_\_ years.

### Why Are Rainforests Being destroyed?

- 1 ½ \_\_\_\_\_ of rainforest are lost every \_\_\_\_\_.
- Rainforests are being destroyed because the value of rainforest land.
- The rainforest is seen only the value of its timber (trees) by logging companies, manufacturing companies and developers
- Logging companies participate in “\_\_\_\_\_” to build homes, make \_\_\_\_\_ and create \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ products.

### Biodiversity Threat

- Nearly \_\_\_\_\_ of the world's species of plants, animals and microorganisms will be destroyed or severely threatened over the next quarter century (25 years) due to rainforest \_\_\_\_\_.
- Experts estimate that we are losing 137 plant, animal and insect species every single day due to rainforest deforestation. That equates to \_\_\_\_\_ species a year. As the rainforest species disappear, so do many possible cures for \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ diseases.

### Tools of Destruction

- Most rainforests are cleared by \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ for its timber.

## Indigenous People

- There were an estimated \_\_\_\_\_ million Indigenous People living in the Amazonian Rainforest five \_\_\_\_\_ ago. Today there are less than \_\_\_\_\_.
- In Brazil alone, European \_\_\_\_\_ have destroyed more than \_\_\_\_\_ indigenous tribes since the 1900's. With them have gone centuries of accumulated knowledge of the medicinal value of rainforest species. As their homelands continue to be destroyed by \_\_\_\_\_, rainforest peoples are also disappearing.

## The Lungs of Our Planet

- The Amazon Rainforest covers over a \_\_\_\_\_ acres
- It has been described as the "\_\_\_\_\_ of our Planet" because it provides the essential environmental world service of continuously recycling carbon dioxide into oxygen. More than 20 \_\_\_\_\_ of the world oxygen is produced in the Amazon Rainforest.

## What Does the Rainforest Give Us?

- Its bountiful gifts to the world include \_\_\_\_\_ like avocados, guavas, coconuts, \_\_\_\_\_, figs, mangos and tomatoes oranges, \_\_\_\_\_, grapefruit, pineapples
- \_\_\_\_\_ including corn, \_\_\_\_\_, rice, winter squash and yams
- \_\_\_\_\_ like black pepper, cayenne, chocolate, cinnamon, cloves, ginger, sugar cane, tumeric, coffee and vanilla and nuts including Brazil nuts and cashews.

## As the Population Grows...

- As the world's human population continues to rise, natural habitats – such as rainforests – are \_\_\_\_\_ so that mankind can grow food to \_\_\_\_\_ all of the people living on Earth.
- \_\_\_\_\_ is by far the biggest cause of deforestation.

## What Can We Do?

- Spread the \_\_\_\_\_! Bring awareness to \_\_\_\_\_ by talking with friends, family and members of your community.
- Conserve your paper products and \_\_\_\_\_!
- Think local first! Buy from \_\_\_\_\_ farms and support \_\_\_\_\_ businesses. This will not only improve profits for small businesses, it will also help develop relationships within communities.





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Deforestation Guided Notes Questions

1. How were the main ideas organized in the text?

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2. Based on your notes, what do you think is the most severe effect of deforestation?

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3. How do sections, "What does the rainforest give us?" and "What can we do?" relate to one another?

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4. How is deforestation a threat to biodiversity?

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# To save the Amazon, we must protect the water and the trees, scientists say

Cutting down trees in the Amazon gets a huge amount of attention. Scientists worry about that, but they also worry about something just as important. The freshwater ecosystems in the Amazon basin need protection, too.

The Amazon is in South America and it is the world's largest rain forest still standing. Trees grow close together. It is very warm with plenty of rain. It is home to many different plants and animals. The Amazon is shared by Brazil, Peru, Colombia and six other countries. The whole area covers almost half of South America, which is one of the world's seven continents.

Freshwater ecosystems are bodies of water where plants and animals live together and depend on each other. Scientists say the water systems are very important to the health of the Amazon basin. The basin is the largest network of rivers, streams and lakes in the world. It drains water into the 4,000-mile-long Amazon River.

## **Water Systems At Risk**

Several things are causing trouble for the plants and animals that live in the Amazon. Scientists wrote in a magazine that figuring out how to protect the Amazon's water systems is very important. They say the Amazon's people, plants and animals all need protection.

Leandro Castello works at a college in Virginia. He helped write the magazine article. Castello has helped care for fish in the Amazon. He says he was disappointed by how the rain forest's trees get much more attention than its water systems.

The freshwater ecosystems do many important things for the Amazon's people, plants and animals. The ecosystems move water through the rain forest and keep its soil healthy. They are also home to many plants and animals, including thousands of kinds of fish. In addition, people who live in the Amazon depend on the systems for food and water. Even though the water systems are so important, they are in trouble.

## **Danger From Dams And Mines**

One cause of the troubles is a change in how the water moves around. Castello says the change is terrible for a freshwater ecosystem.

Dams change the way water moves. They stop natural water flow and block it up in pools. Fish and other animals cannot get through and move downstream. Dams are also a problem for people who make their living by fishing or who eat mostly fish.

There are many dams in the Amazon basin already. More are planned. Scientists say that if all the new dams are built, only three rivers will not be touched.

Mining can also change water systems. Gold miners take away sand and mud from the bottom of rivers and streams. Mining can change the water and even poison it.

### **The High Cost Of Cutting Down Trees**

In addition to dams and mining, cutting down trees is one of the biggest problems for freshwater ecosystems. Castello says trees have an important job. They take water from the soil and send it out through their leaves. When there are fewer trees, water runs back into the rivers, bringing soil with it.

Clearing rain forests can also cause it to rain less and make droughts worse. Plants and trees are also important for land. Without them, soil can wash into the water and change the shape of rivers and streams.

### **Burning Up The Amazon**

As the earth's climate changes, it may add another problem. Fossil fuels are natural fuels like oil, gas and coal. When people burn fossil fuels for energy, it creates greenhouse gases. The gases get trapped in the earth's atmosphere. As temperatures rise in the Amazon basin, droughts and severe storms may happen more often. Water levels in rivers may drop. Some streams might disappear.

Castello says lawmakers need to come up with a plan for both land and freshwater ecosystems. He also says that satellites could help countries watch freshwater ecosystems. Satellites already help countries see when trees are being cut that should not be touched.

Claudio Maretti is a scientist from Brazil. He says that countries need to work together to protect the Amazon's people, plants and animals.

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1. Where is the Amazon Rainforest located?

- A. North America, including Canada and the United States
- B. Brazil and Columbia
- C. Brazil, Columbia, Peru and six other countries
- D. Brazil, Columbia, Peru, Cameroon and Mexico

2. The section, "Water Systems at Risk" is mostly about...

- A. We need to focus more on the deforestation of the rainforest more than anything else
- B. Water systems of the rainforest don't get as much attention as the deforestation of the rainforest.
- C. Water preservation is more important than deforestation
- D. Ecosystems depend on freshwater and the water of the Amazon needs just as much attention as deforestation.

3. What does the word *depend* mean in the following sentence? Freshwater ecosystems are bodies of water where plants and animals live together and *depend* on one another.

- A. rely
- B. contribute
- C. destroy
- D. impact

4. How are the main ideas in the text organized?

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5. How do paragraphs 7-15 support the author's message?

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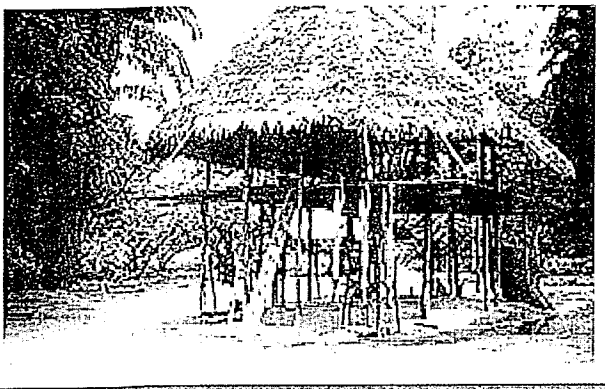
### The Children of the Rainforest

Who are we and where do we live? You've heard a lot about the rainforest. You may have even seen pictures or watched videos about it. Well, you could say we know a lot about the rainforest... we live there! We're happy you've entered our little corner of the world to learn more about us and about our home. We live in a very large rainforest near the Amazon River in South America! It is a very beautiful place to live. The closest cities to us are pretty far away. It takes several days just to get to a city. Most of us have never been there. We live near the Atlantic Ocean, but we've never been there either. Our home is on a land reserve that was given to us by the federal government in the country we live in. Have you ever gone camping? We go camping our whole lives! We live off the land. The rainforest is very important to us because it is where we hunt, eat, sleep, and raise our families. Some of us know the language of the country where we live, but most of us don't. We just know our own language. Some of us even know three or four languages! There are only a few hundred people in the whole world who speak our language!

Do children of the Rainforest have to do chores too? We sure do! Our families count on us to get up early in the morning to begin working. We know that we are needed and expected to do lots of work. The girls look after their little sister, brother, niece, or nephew. They also help cook, grate manioc, carry heavy backpacks, and get water. The boys in our village have to do some work too (but they have more fun doing it). They hunt with the men in the village, fish, farm, and weave baskets. They also spend much time in the jungle as part of their learning and training to become excellent hunters and providers for their families and the village in the future. In our free time, both boys and girls love to go swimming in the river, and there is plenty of rivers around here in the rain forest! We also like to watch the animals in our village. The girls like to play with their hand-made dolls (since there are no stores around here to buy them at), and the boys like to shoot their bows and arrows and play in the forest.

We have so many animals here in the rainforest. We start learning about the animals and birds even when we are babies. Some animals we hunt for food so we don't go hungry, while other animals we use for fun as pets. Our favorite pets include frogs, baby birds, toucans, parrots, macaws, chickens, monkeys, pigs, baby alligators, snakes, turtles, agoutis, dogs, and even insects! Do you have any pets like that? Unfortunately, certain animals have become endangered in the rain forests because of their popularity as pets in other parts of the world.

We've heard that some people actually have walls on their houses! But not us... We don't need walls on our houses for anything. It doesn't get cold here, and we don't need much privacy at all. Privacy to us is a lot different than what you may be used to. If you came here and built a simple house, put walls around it, and wrote your name on the door, that doesn't mean that it is "off limits" or "private". But, we do practice privacy when we bathe in the river. Even though we don't wear a lot of clothing usually, the women bathe at one time or place and the men at another. Are you used to having your own room at home? Well, you sure wouldn't get your own room around here! To build our house, we put up some poles to support a thatched roof. Since it rains here so much, we do a good job in making the roof to have as few leaks as possible.





1. How is the passage organized?

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2. How do the children of the rainforest live differently than you?

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3. How do you think deforestation impacts their lives?

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4. What can we learn from the indigenous people of the rainforest? (Think about lifestyle, values and respect for the land)

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5. What is the point of view of the passage? How do you know?

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**Wednesday** \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

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**Thursday** \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

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