

RAINFORESTS & DEFORESTATION

Africa's rainforests are disappearing. Why does it matter that forests worldwide are being cut down? And why are rainforests particularly important?



_____ **LOSS:**

Loss of rainforest means animals are becoming _____.
Rainforests are home to _____ to _____% of all life forms on Earth.



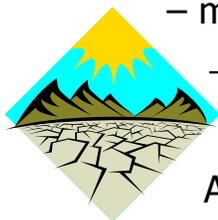
_____ **IMPACT:**

Tropical rainforests are the best places for scientists to find _____ that can be used to make _____. _____% of all medicines prescribed in the US have active ingredients that come from _____ plants. For example, of the approximately 3,000 plants found to have _____-fighting properties, 70% of them were found in the rainforest (Reported by The National Cancer Institute). _____ companies send scientists to rainforests to collect plant specimens **and then** pay scientists big bucks \$\$\$ to _____ ways to use them as medicines. So as rainforest is destroyed, we _____ plants – every day – that could be used to discover new medicines.



_____ **IMPACT:**

The tropical rainforests are like giant "_____ _____" that sends heat and moisture from the tropics into the colder high _____ – making it warmer & sending rain. Rain forests help produce _____ in nearby countries. Destruction of rainforests in West African countries _____ have caused actually two decades of _____ in other parts of Africa. Drought hurts farming, and that meant many people _____.



So if it's such a big problem, why do they keep cutting it down?

1. Farming

Cleared rainforest soil is _____ for farming.
So families clear more and more land to try and grow _____.



What helps?

- Make _____ so small farms grow more.
- Teach _____ with water conservation

2. Wood for fuel

What helps?

- Make better _____ sources.
- Use simple _____ (instead of open fires).
- Create firewood "_____."



3. Logging

Legal and _____ logging destroys large areas of Congo rainforest. Most of the wood is sold in _____.



What helps?

- _____ logging laws. (Stop illegal logging.)
- Get international buyers to buy only "_____ " wood.

Deforestation slowing – _____.