**Rainforests 101 – A Video by the National Geographic Society**



Shrouded in a blanket of clouds they awaken. Their canopies of green glitter \_\_\_\_\_\_ (???) the sun, their wildlife start to slither, chirp and growl, and one of the planet’s richest ecosystems \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (come) to life.

Rainforests are the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (old) ecosystems on the planet . Some can trace their \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (word family of “original) to over 70 million years ago, back to a time when dinosaurs still roamed the earth. While the giant reptiles have disappeared, rainforests continue to thrive, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (grow) on every continent except Antarctica.

Two types of rainforests are scattered across the globe, temperate and tropical. Temperate rainforests \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (mainly/ find) in the mid-latitudes, often near cooler coastal and mountainous regions. Tropical rainforests are primarily \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (locate) warmer climates between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn.

As their names imply, temperate and tropical rainforests are the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (wet) forests on earth receiving up to about 33 feet of rain \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (???) year. This precipitation plays a critical role in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (create) an exceptionally lush and biologically diverse habitat. While rainforests only make up about 6 % \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (???) the surface area, they are home of over half of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (world) plant and animal species. This biodiversity creates benefits \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (???) extend far beyond the rainforest boundaries. Rainforest plants produce an assortment of food items, in addition to ingredients useful in everyday products and medicines. In fact, an estimated 70% of the plants \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (use) in cancer treatments are only found in rainforests.

On an even larger scale rainforests help \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (stabilize) the planet’s climate. Its lush green vegetation regulates global temperatures by absorbing massive amounts of radiation \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (???) the sun. They also absorb vast amounts of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (???) dioxide and convert them into oxygen – about 40% of the planet’s breathable \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (???).

Over the past few centuries rainforests \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (???) disappeared at an alarming rate. Factors \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (???) economic inequalities, human development and demand for natural resources have fueled the devastation of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (this/ these?) rich ecosystems. At the current rate rainforests which \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (survive) for over 70 million years may completely disappear within the next century.

But through educational campaigns, sustainable logging practices and cooperation with local communities deforestation may begin \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (slow down) helping preserve rainforests for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (much/ many?) generations to come.