

THE RAINFORESTS: Why Are They Important?

Rainforests cover six per cent of the Earth's surface. There are rainforests in many parts of the world but the biggest forests are in South America, Africa and South East Asia. There aren't any rainforests in Europe or North America.

About 75% of all the types of animals that we know come from rainforests. Thousands and thousands of animals live in rainforests. There are many very beautiful birds, insects and reptiles. Many of them live in trees, over 30 metres from the ground. There are also thousands of different plants – and lots of all trees! It is always hot in a rainforest and the ground always wet. It is also dark.

The rainforests are also very important for us. We need them! The trees and other plants in the forest help to make the air that we breathe. They also help to control the weather. They give us wood, rubber, fruits and many of our medicines.

Unfortunately, in many places, the rainforests are in danger. For example, many years ago there was a large rainforest in Java. There were thousands of different plants and animals in the forest, but now there is nothing. People cut down the trees because they wanted to grow rice. They also planted rubber trees to make rubber. Many animals lived in the rainforest. Some of them went to other parts of Java but many of them disappeared – forever. The same thing is happening now in many other parts of the world. The rainforests are in danger!

insect – насекомое

reptile – рептилия

Java – о. Ява

forever – навсегда