1 Why are trees vital?

Write down your thoughts around the benefits that an oak tree provides (we gave you one to get you started)

Produce oxygen

What is Deforestation?

Deforestation is the clearing, or cutting down, of forests. The word is normally used to describe the actions of humans in removing forests from the planet, rather than destruction caused by such natural events as hurricanes.

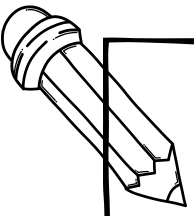
People have been cutting down trees for thousands of years. In recent times, however, the number of forests being lost through deforestation has grown enormously. This is seen as a great problem that affects the environment in many important ways.

Experts estimate that about 500,000 square miles (1.3 million square kilometers) of land is deforested every 10 years. Half of that is primary forest, which means it has never been cut down before. The largest amount of deforestation is happening in tropical areas, where rainforests are being cut down. Most deforestation is permanent. Some areas do recover from this damage, but it can take many years.

Trees are cut down so their wood can be burned or used to make things, such as buildings, furniture, or paper. Large areas of trees are removed so that the land can be used to grow crops or to provide places where farm animals can graze. Most of the planet's croplands were once forests, which would have covered 4.2 million square miles (11 million square kilometers). In tropical areas large areas of forest are cleared in order to plant such crops as coffee, rubber trees, or palm trees. These crops are grown on large farms called plantations. The people who grow them make a great deal of money selling the coffee beans, sap from the rubber trees, and oil from the palm trees. Deforestation also takes place when people want to clear an area to build new settlements.

kids.britannica.com/kids/article/deforestation/443116

Summary



Why are trees vital?

Why are trees vital? (So important there are two boxes)

Why do people remove forests?

What can we do to help?

Summary sentence