

**1 Write.**

**animals    small    night    cactus    tail    travel    biggest**

Deserts cover about 30% of the land on Earth. The (1) \_\_\_\_\_ desert is the Sahara desert in North Africa. Many deserts are very hot during the day and very cold during the (2) \_\_\_\_\_. Deserts get very little rain, but some species of plants survive in the desert. The most famous desert plant is the (3) \_\_\_\_\_. There are also animals in the desert. Most desert animals are (4) \_\_\_\_\_. There are spiders and scorpions. Scorpions use their sharp, venomous (5) \_\_\_\_\_ to kill their prey. There are also lizards and snakes. One of the most dangerous snakes is the rattlesnake. There also some big (6) \_\_\_\_\_ like the camel. Camels are very important in the desert because people use them to (7) \_\_\_\_\_. Some desert animals do not drink water, they get water from their food.

**2 Order the words and write the sentences.**

1 live / Native Amazonians / in the Amazon rainforest

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2 in houses / They live / made of wood and plants

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3 is the biggest rainforest / The Amazon rainforest / in the world

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4 of birds / 20% of the world's species / live in the Amazon rainforest

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5 a lot of insects, plants / and mammals / There are also

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6 big areas of the rainforest / every year / People destroy

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7 produces / about 20% of the Earth's oxygen / The Amazon rainforest

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8 longest / in the world / The Amazon river is the second

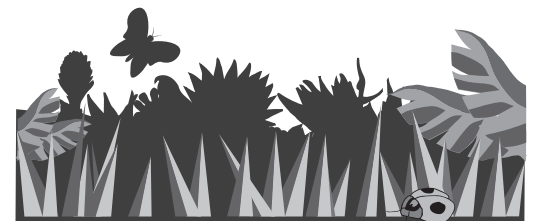
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9 the Amazon rainforest / is a road that crosses / The Trans-Amazonian Highway

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10 4,800 km / It is / long

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**THE AMAZON RAINFOREST**

Size:

*Approximately 5 million km<sup>2</sup>*

Weather:

*Warm and humid*

Plants:

*Trees, lianas, palm trees, grass*

Animals:

*Mammals: monkeys,*

*jaguars, anteaters*

*Reptiles: snakes, turtles,*

*iguanas*

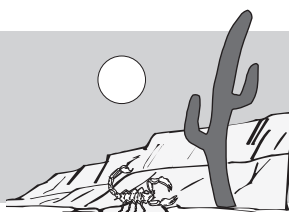
*Amphibians: frogs*

*Birds: parrots, eagles, owls*

*Fish: piranhas*



## Deserts and rainforests.



### Aim

- To study desert and rainforest ecosystems.

### Language focus

**Key vocabulary:** *desert, rainforest, species of plants, survive, cactus, scorpion, sharp tail, kill, prey, lizard, rattlesnake, camel, ecosystem, weather, warm, humid, lianas, palm tree, jaguar, anteater, turtle, iguana, eagle, owl, piranha, native Amazonians, wood.*

**Key language:** *Deserts get very little rain. There are also lizards and snakes. The Amazon rainforest is the biggest rainforest in the world.*

### Materials

- Pictures/photos of deserts and rainforests.
- A world map or a globe.
- Worksheet.

## Warm-up

- Draw two columns on the board. Write *animals* at the top of the first column and *weather* at the top of the other. Elicit from the class as many relevant words as possible and write them in the two columns, eg, animals: *dog, cat, parrot, snake, crocodile, eagle*; weather: *sunny, rain, windy, cloudy, cold, hot*.

## Completing the Worksheet

### Activity 1

- Show the pupils a picture of a desert or write *desert* on the board. Write *animals, plants, weather*. Elicit information about deserts from the class. Ask the pupils questions like *What animals live in deserts? What's the weather like in deserts? Are there any plants in deserts?* Write some of their answers on the board.
- Show the class a map of the world or a globe and ask the pupils to find some deserts.

- Write the words *animals, small, night, cactus, tail, travel*, and *biggest* on the board. Go through the words with the class and check comprehension.
- Ask the pupils to read Activity 1 and complete the text with the words in the box. Then read through the text with the class and check for understanding.
- Explain that *a desert is an ecosystem. An ecosystem is an area where climate, landscape, animals and plants interact.*

**Answers:** 1-biggest; 2-night; 3-cactus; 4-small; 5-tail; 6-animals; 7-travel

### Activity 2

- Show the pupils a picture of a rainforest. Write on the board *weather, plants* and *animals*. Elicit information from the class and invite pupils to write some of the words on the board, eg, weather: *rain, hot*; plants: *palm trees*; animals: *monkeys, snakes*.
- Show the pupils a map of the world or a globe and ask them to find some rainforests. Explain that *the Amazon rainforest is the biggest rainforest in the world*.
- Write some true/false sentences about the Amazon rainforest on the board. Ask the pupils to copy them in their notebooks and discuss in small groups whether they think they are true or false, eg, *It's cold in the Amazon rainforest. (F) There a lot of animals and plants. (T) Nobody lives in the Amazon rainforest. (F)*
- Ask the pupils to read the information in the table in Activity 2. Encourage them to write the words they don't understand in their notebooks and try to guess their meaning. Explain any words they can't guess using pictures, mime and simple explanations.
- The pupils order and write the sentences about the Amazon rainforest. Help with vocabulary and check answers with the class when they have finished.
- Explain that *the rainforest is an ecosystem with its animals, plants, microorganisms, weather, landscape, water, light*, etc. Stress that *rainforests are very important because lots of*

*animals and plants live in them. Rainforests produce a lot of oxygen which is necessary for the air we breathe. Rainforests clean the air. People are destroying the rainforests because they are cutting down lots of trees. If there are no trees, the animals die. It's important to protect the rainforest.*

**Answers:** 1-Native Amazonians live in the Amazon rainforest. 2-They live in houses made of wood and plants. 3-The Amazon rainforest is the biggest rainforest in the world. 4-20% of the world's species of birds live in the Amazon rainforest. 5-There are also a lot of insects, plants and mammals. 6-People destroy big areas of the rainforest every year. 7-The Amazon rainforest produces about 20% of the Earth's oxygen. 8-The Amazon river is the second longest river in the world. 9-The Trans-Amazonian Highway is a road that crosses the Amazon rainforest. 10-It is 4,800 km long.

## Extension activity

- Bring a pupil to the front of the class. Encourage the pupil to talk about the Amazon rainforest using the information in the table. Say one of the topics in the table and encourage the pupil to talk about it, eg, Teacher: *Plants*. Pupil: *In the rainforest there are lots of trees, lianas, palm trees and grass*. T: *Animals*. P: *In the rainforest there are a lot of animals. There are monkeys, jaguars and anteaters*. The pupils can then continue in the same way in small groups if you wish.

- Ask them to draw a picture of the rainforest in their notebooks and write some sentences about it.