

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Tropical Ecosystems

1. Where do rainforests naturally grow in the world?

Rainforests naturally grow close to the equator.

2. Where do most plants and animals live in a tropical rain forest?

Most plants and animals live in the canopy.



3. What are some resources that come from the rainforest?

Some products are medicines, cooking oil, waxes, dyes, wood for furniture, and food.

4. List the underlined words from The Rain Forest part of your text and write a short definition for each.

Climate- Weather over a long period of time

Canopy-The highest level of vegetation and animal life in the rainforest

Forest floor-The lowest level of vegetation and animal life in the rainforest

Decomposes-Decaying of plant and animals.

Nutrients- substance that feeds plants. Usually from decayed plants and animals.

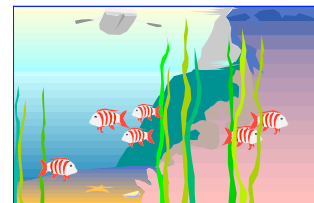
Diversity-Variety

5. Why is salinity of salt water important to coral reefs?

Salinity is important as a condition for coral reefs to be formed.

6. Describe what a polyp does during its lifetime?

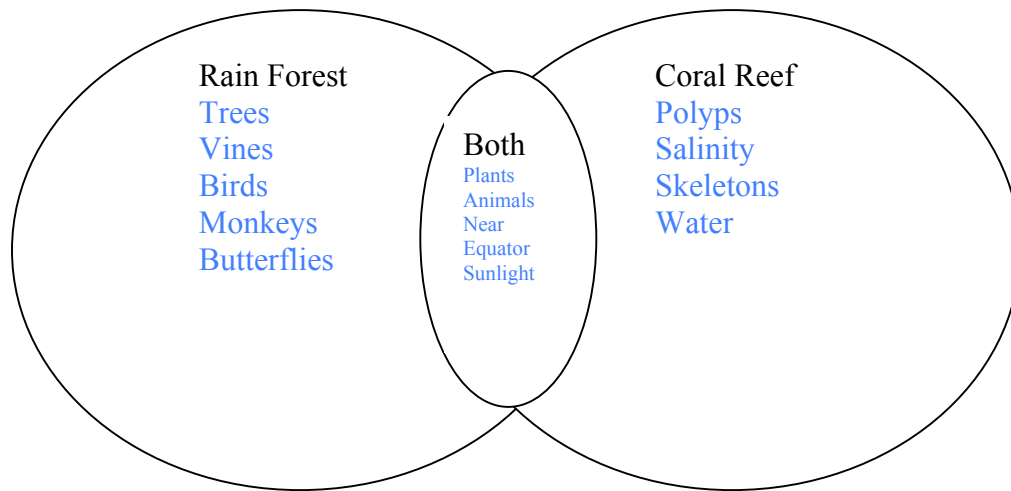
A polyp will build a limestone skeleton around their bodies, taking in calcium from the ocean.



7. How is a coral reef built?

Coral reefs are built when a polyp dies and its skeleton is taken over by another polyp who builds it up even more. Those skeletons eventually become part of the coral reef.

8. Use the web below to show similarities and differences between a rain forest and a coral reef.



9. Name some resources from the coral reef.  
Coral for jewelry, sponges, and tropical fish for fish tanks come from the coral reefs.

10. Why are the resources from these tropical ecosystems so important?

The resources from these tropical ecosystems are important because they cannot be found in any other ecosystem in the world.

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### HANDHELD OPTIONS

Using your **handheld**, you are required to complete **one** of the following-

- Using **PicoMap**, tell about either the rainforest or the coral reef.
  - Plants
  - Animals
  - Location
  - Resources
- Using **Palm4Kids** or **Sketchy**, draw and label the rainforest-
  - Canopy
  - Forest floor
  - Animals
  - Plants
  - How sunlight gets through to the forest floor.
- Using **Palm4Kids** or **Sketchy**, draw and label the formation of a coral reef from the life of polyps to a large reef.