

Deforestation Facts Sheet

Deforestation affects wildlife, ecosystems, weather patterns, and even the climate.

About 17% of the Amazonian rainforest has been cut down over the past 50 years.

Between 1990 and 2016, more trees were cut down than the size of South Africa.

Since humans started cutting down trees, 46% of trees have been felled.

Most deforestation occurs because of farming, grazing of livestock, mining, and drilling.

The forests in Malaysia and Indonesia are cut down so that palm oil can be produced. This oil is used in a lot of products from shampoo to chocolate.

Some of the trees are cut down to produce paper that is shipped across the world!

Around 250 million people live in forest and savannah areas that are dependent on the forests for things like income, food, and materials.

Deforestation causes carbon dioxide to be released back into the atmosphere, and even more is released if the trees are then burnt. It also means that less carbon dioxide can be absorbed from the air.



How can we help prevent deforestation?

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Here's what you can do:

Start planting trees.

Stop printing and go paperless or ask your school to buy environmentally friendly paper.

When shopping, try and buy recycled and sustainable products.

Recycle as much as possible.

Do not buy meat products sourced from land where forests have been cleared.

Check the ingredients of your food and if you see palm oil on it, do not buy it!

Do not use firewood to heat up your fireplaces.

Encourage people to live in a way that doesn't hurt the environment.

Do not buy anything from large, multinationals that are directly or indirectly involved/responsible for the clearing of forest land.

Support companies that produce products by causing minimal harm to the environment.



How else can we help prevent deforestation?