

RAINFORESTS

MANHATTAN NEW SCHOOL/ SPRING 2011/ VOLUME 01

By **Eliza Strout**

What's happening to Rainforests?

Deep into the Rainforest, tall trees, animals, and colorful plants surround you. When you look up you see tons of animals moving around in the canopy the trees make, going on with their daily life. You hear soft chirping coming from many different kinds of birds. Will the Rainforests always be like that? Rainforests all over the world are being destroyed because people want the land for farming and cattle ranches. People also want to log the trees (cut them down) to make paper and other things. People also cut down the Rainforests to make ways to build new roads.

Since people are cutting down trees, some plants and animals are being destroyed along with the trees.

WHAT'S IN THEMRAINFOREST?

The Rainforest is home to more than half the world's species of animals! Some of those animals are Boa Constrictors, Sloths, Spider Monkeys, Tree Kangaroos, and Poison Arrow

continued on page 2

Frogs. There are some unknown species of animals in the Rainforest. "For every species known, there remain forty yet undiscovered. We know more about distant planets, then the nearest Rainforest" according to the information from the Bronx Zoo.

According to the website, kidsmongobay.com, there are about 170,000 plants in the Rainforest. According to srl.caltech.edu/ rainforest, 50,000,000 people live in the Rainforest. They depend on the Rainforest for food and shelter. When the Rainforest is being cut down it is affecting people because the Rainforest is their home.

There are a lot of products from your everyday life that are from the Rainforest. Sometimes furniture and toys is made from Rainforest wood. There are also fibers that you use to make fishing nets, ropes and baskets. There are also many foods and spices in the

Rainforest including cinnamon, vanilla, paprika, bananas, oranges, lemons, and cashews.

WHAT IS RAINFOREST DESTRUCTION DOING TO THE ENVIRONMENT?

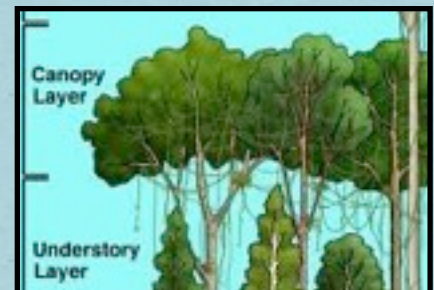
Oh no! The Rainforest is being cut down! 5,400 acres of Rainforest are being destroyed each hour! But what would happen to you if you lived in the Rainforest and you were an animal? Many Rainforest animals live in trees. When the trees are cut down, animals lose their homes. Some of those animals are endangered and when the Rainforest is cut down, some of those endangered animals might even become extinct! It isn't fair to the animals - it is their home and they can't do anything to protect their homes from being cut down.



The Tree Kangaroo lives in trees in the Rainforest. It is being endangered by forest destruction because when people cut down trees they lose their habitats



The Rainforest is full of many different kinds of colorful plants.



The tops of trees in the Rainforest form a layer called the canopy. The canopy of the Rainforest is about 20 feet thick!

DEEP INSIDE

But it isn't only the animals being affected, people are being affected too. Some of those plants like Cinchona (Cinchona helps treat malaria) can help cure serious diseases that kill many people like cancer and heart disease. Scientists have found the plant Ouabain that helps treat heart disease and Nightshade that helps cure nervous systems. But it isn't only plants in the Rainforest that can help make medicines. One kind of medicine is made from venom from snakes and it breaks up and prevents blood clots.

There are many unknown plants in the Rainforest - and some might have cures for these diseases. The problem is that people are cutting down the Rainforests so the undiscovered cures could be disappearing along with the trees, plants, and animals. If people stopped cutting down the trees, lives might be saved as well because scientists could find the cures. Even if people stopped cutting down trees for a little and planted new trees in place of the ones they cut down, it would not help some animals like the tree kangaroo because tree kangaroos need



* There are so many tall trees in the Rainforest!!!!



old trees that are fully grown and strong enough to support them.

animals that are losing their habitats when the Rainforest is cut down.

There are a few organizations trying to stop forest destruction. Wildlife Conservation Society is trying to help