Rainforests- Deforestation

What causes deforestation?

Farming: Forests are cleared to grow crops, such as soya, or to raise cattle.

Logging: Trees are cut down to provide timber and wood products.

Mining: Forests are cleared to extract valuable minerals and resources.

Road building: Roads are built to transport people, goods and resources, opening up previously remote areas.

Settlements: Land is cleared to build homes, towns and other infrastructure.

Energy: Trees may be cut down or burned for fuel, and land may be cleared for energy projects.

What are the local and global impacts?

Local impacts (effects on the rainforest and nearby communities)

- Habitat loss: Animals and plants lose their homes, reducing biodiversity.
- Impacts on Indigenous communities: People may lose their homes, land, resources and cultural connections.
- Loss of livelihoods: Communities relying on the forest for food, materials and income may be affected.

Global impacts (effects around the world)

- Climate change: Cutting down and burning trees releases carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas.
- Reduced carbon storage: Fewer trees are available to absorb and store carbon dioxide.
- Biodiversity loss: Species may become endangered or extinct, reducing global biodiversity.



Key vocabulary:

Deforestation	The permanent or long-term removal of trees and forest cover from land, transforming a wooded area into non-forest use.
Conservation	The careful management, protection, and wise use of Earth's natural resources—such as water, soil, forests, and wildlife—to prevent depletion, waste, or destruction.
Sustainability	Meeting current needs without hurting the ability of future generations to meet theirs.
Stakeholder	A person or group affected by a decision.
Tropical Rainforest	A hot, humid, and dense forest found near the Equator.
Reforestation	The natural or intentional replanting of trees in areas where forests were previously lost or damaged by human activities like logging or farming, or natural events like wildfires and disease.





What can be done to reduce deforestation?

Protected areas: Prevent or restrict forest clearance in important habitats.

Sustainable farming: Grow crops and raise cattle on existing farmland instead of clearing more forest.

Selective logging: Cut down selected trees carefully and allow forests time to recover.

Reforestation: Replant trees in areas where forests have been removed.

Forest restoration: Help damaged forests recover by allowing natural regrowth and planting native trees where needed.

Responsible consumption: Choose products that do not contribute to unnecessary forest destruction.

Stronger laws and monitoring: Enforce rules against illegal logging and forest clearance.