



**Topic 8: GCSE Forests under threat PLC**

<b>Element of the course</b>			
How biotic and abiotic characteristics are interdependent (climate, soil, water, plants, animals and humans), how plants (stratified layers, buttress roots, drip tips) and animals are adapted to the climate.			
Why tropical rainforests have a very high rate of nutrient cycling which, in turn, supports high levels of biodiversity and complex food webs.			
How biotic and abiotic characteristics are interdependent (climate, soil, water, plants, animals and humans), how taiga plants (cone-shaped, needles, simple structure) and animals (migratory) are adapted to the climate.			
Why the taiga has lower productivity, with less active nutrient cycling and much lower levels of biodiversity.			
Causes of deforestation: commercial hardwood logging, subsistence and commercial agriculture, local demand for fuel wood and how demand for biofuels, mineral resources and electricity (HEP) contribute to deforestation.			
Why climate change is an indirect threat to the health of tropical rainforests (ecosystem stress, drought).			
Direct threats from logging for softwood, pulp and paper production and indirect threats resulting from the exploitation of minerals, fossil fuels and HEP potential.			
How acid precipitation, forest fires, pests and diseases and forest fires contribute to a loss of biodiversity.			
Advantages and disadvantages of global actions (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD)) designed to protect tropical rainforest species and areas and why deforestation rates are rising in some areas but falling in others.			
The challenge of achieving sustainable forest management and why alternative livelihoods (ecotourism, sustainable farming) might better protect the remaining tropical rainforest.			
Challenges of creating and maintaining protected wilderness areas, national parks and sustainable forestry in the taiga.			
Reasons for conflicting views on protecting or exploiting forest and natural resources in the taiga.			

**SELF ASSESSMENT**

**TEACHER ASSESSMENT**

**PM (Progress Made?)**

  
  
  

**PF (Progress Forward?)**

**Your strengths in this activity are...**

**To improve your grade you should...**