

Rainforest Live

Center for Rainforest Studies, Queensland, Australia



Rainforest Plants



by Bianca Knoll

Rainforests have the highest plant diversity of any ecosys-

tem in the world—in Australia, half of the nation's plant diversity is found in the rainforest, which covers less than a tenth of one percent of the continent!

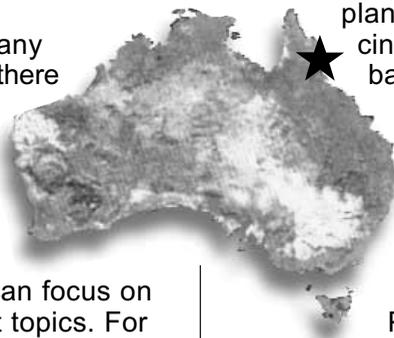
With so many plant species, there are infinite avenues for exploration and research, and scientists studying rainforest plants can focus on many different topics. For instance, some scientists study the interactions between plants and animals in the rainforest. Other scientists, called ethnobotanists, study how different cultures,

such as the Australian aboriginal culture, traditionally use plants for medicine, food, shelter, and goods. Still others study how plants can be used economically. Since there are so many rainforest plants, scientists can go in many directions.

Plants are important to study because they provide many benefits to humans. Obviously, we can eat many

plants. Many medicines are plant-based, and the majority of rainforest species have yet to be tested for possible medicinal uses.

Plants also provide humans with beautiful landscapes and recreational opportunities. Rainforest plants are particularly important for people around the world because they are so productive, producing lots of oxygen for plants and animals to use. They also hold the soil together and attract birds, insects, mammals, and other important living things. It is these things that make the rainforest such an interesting ecosystem for people to visit and study.



Q. Why are you studying the rainforest?



A. For a biologist, the most exciting thing is searching for the unique and discovering the undiscovered, and there is no better place for that than the Australian rainforest. Nowhere else can you find sulphur-crested cockatoos, duck-billed platypus, red-legged pademelons, and satin ash trees. Just a few nights ago, I heard bark being ripped from a tree close by. I shone my flashlight to find a creature resembling a long black-and-white striped squirrel. It was a striped possum looking for beetle larvae beneath the bark.

Most importantly, the rainforest is in danger. Due to exploitation of early explorers and more recent unsustainable logging practices, the rainforest has suffered deforestation and loss of biodiversity. Studying here, I hope to find ways to preserve this natural wonderland.

Answered by Jane Buck, an SFS student from Millsaps College.

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Taking on a Challenge

Search the newspaper for people who are undertaking a new or challenging endeavor (athletes, refugees, politicians, etc.). What are their goals and motivations? What preparations have they made to achieve their goals?

Bianca Knoll is an SFS student from Macalester College.

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Rainforest Live

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Animals of the Rainforest



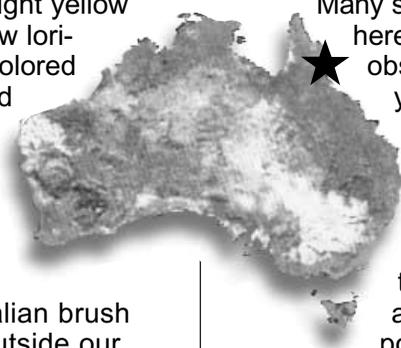
by **Tiffany Young**

Many different animals live in the tropical Australian rainforest, but initially I only noticed the bright, beautiful birds. Sulfur-crested cockatoos fly over daily, bel-

lowing a loud "CAW-CAW." They resemble gigantic white parrots with bright yellow crests. Rainbow lorikeets (boldly colored green, red, and blue) and Australian king parrots (colored green and red) can also be seen nearby. Australian brush turkeys lurk outside our kitchen searching for handouts. The red flowers of certain bushes provide food for

birds called honeyeaters. These birds are nectivorous, meaning they drink only the nectar of flowers. The plants they feed on depend on the honeyeaters to spread their pollen. This relationship is called symbiosis.

There are also many amphibians and reptiles in the rainforest. Cane toads, though not native to Australia, are found virtually everywhere.



Many snakes also live here. We recently observed three yellow-faced whipsnakes. Although most snakes in Australia are venomous, these snakes aren't too poisonous.

Most of the world's marsupials live in Australia, and sometimes we see bandicoots at night, rummaging for food. Bandicoots look like opossums. We also see pademelons, which resemble tiny kangaroos, hopping in the forest.

We see magnificent wildlife almost everywhere in the rainforest. We must protect the land these animals inhabit so that others may explore the rainforests in the future.

Tiffany Young is an SFS student from Oregon State University.



Q. What is the tallest tree in Australia?

A. The tallest tree in Australia is the eucalyptus, whose greatest recorded height reached is 374 feet. There are so many different species of eucalyptus that even experts cannot identify them all. The name eucalyptus is derived from two Greek words—*eu* and *kalyptos*—meaning well-covered.

Different parts of the eucalyptus are important resources for many commercial products. The wood, one of the heaviest, hardest, and most durable known in the world, provides timber for constructing bridges, wharves, sporting goods, musical instruments, matches, and much more. The leaves contain essential oils that have valuable pharmaceutical uses, and the flowers are a source of honey. The eucalyptus leaves are also the main diet of the koala, a tree-dwelling marsupial.

Answered by Jana Ng, an SFS student from University of Southern California.

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Animal Ads

Search today's newspaper for ads that portray animals. What can you tell about people's relationships to animals from these ads? Why was the animal used in the ad? Choose one animal, research it, and present an oral report to the class about its natural history. Include whether it is an endangered species or not.



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Rainforest Products



by **Mara D'Angelo**

The rainforest is important to us in our daily lives for many reasons.

Even though most of us do not live near a rainforest, we still benefit from the products found there.

Products such as coffee, rubber, macadamia nuts, bananas, cocoa, and mangoes were all originally discovered in the rainforest. Although these products are now grown by people on plantations, they originated in the rainforest. There are also several products that are still harvested directly from the forest.

These include latex, nuts, fruits, ivory, tea and spices. People also harvest different kinds of mushrooms and bamboo shoots from the rainforest. Brazil nuts are a major rainforest crop, and that's where Ben & Jerry's Rainforest Crunch ice cream gets its crunch from.

Among the most useful rainforest products are plants used for medicine.

Local people use *negirto* to heal skin

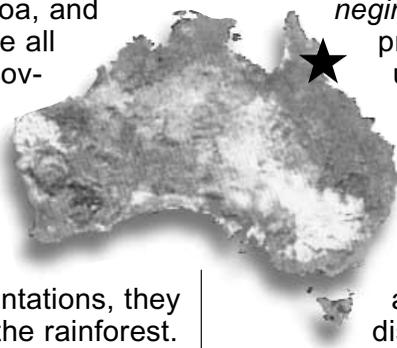
problems and upset stomachs, and *cocomecca* for kidney problems.

Other medicines have also been discovered from rainforest plants,

and some people think that cures for our worst diseases—such as cancer and AIDS—can be found if we further explore rainforest plants.

With so many important products coming from the rainforest, and possibly many more we have yet to discover, we should take the threat of rainforest destruction seriously.

Mara D'Angelo is an SFS student from Tufts University.



Q. What things do you do to be ecologically smart?



A. At the Center for Rainforest Studies, we are challenged when dealing with our trash and waste, so we try to generate as little as possible. When we do generate waste, we try to recycle and reuse it rather than throw it away. For example, we convert waste cardboard into plant mulch and make soap from waste oils and grease. We also cool ourselves with fans, not air conditioning, and we use rechargeable batteries in our radios. Though water conservation in the wet tropics is not a big worry here, we conserve as much as we can by using low-flow shower heads and half-flush toilets. We are also planning to use our "gray water" for watering newly-planted trees.

Answered by Sara Beth Scadlock, an SFS student from Northland College.

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Industry Search

What are the commercial industries in your community? Look through the newspaper and see what kinds of industries are based in your town, state, or province. Research what natural resources are used by these industries.

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Ecotourism

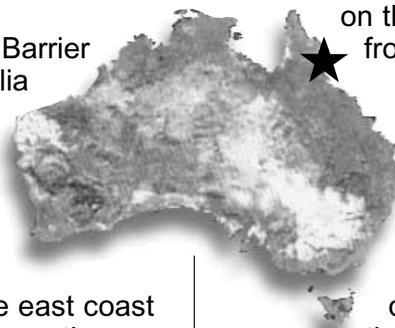


by **Mandy Smith**

Ecotourism is the practice of traveling to an ecologically interesting place to see and learn about its natural wonders. While ecotourism benefits local businesses and people, it can have negative effects on the natural environment.

The Great Barrier Reef of Australia offers examples of the benefits and risks associated with ecotourism. The reef lies off the east coast of Australia where the warm climate and beautiful

beaches make it a popular vacation destination. The reef's warm water, bright colors, tropical fish, and natural beauty are an attraction to many visitors. These visitors support the local ecotourism industry, and they help individuals and families earn a living by staying in local hotels, eating at local restaurants, and shopping in local stores. Business owners and their families depend on this income



from tourists. Although ecotourism is good for people, it is not always good for the reef. Many scuba divers who visit the reef damage

it through careless diving techniques (like stepping on the coral and kicking up sediment) and by taking pieces of coral home with them as souvenirs. In addition, visitors to the Great Barrier Reef bring motor vehicles with them, creating air pollution.

Because there are both pros and cons, it is hard to decide whether ecotourism is good or bad.

Mandy Smith is an SFS student from University of Vermont.



Q. How do you remove a leech on or near your eye?

A. It is interesting that you ask such a question, because just last week a student in our group really *did* get a leech in his eye! If you pull off a leech, its teeth can be left in the skin; therefore, when a leech is on your eye, you do not want to pull it off. You just wait for the leech to stop feeding. When it does, it will drop out on its own. It is very uncomfortable, but it is the safest way to deal with the leech. You could also put some saline solution in your eye, and salty tears help, too. The student in our group waited it out, and the leech fell out of his eye onto our cabin table. It was quite an event.

Answered by Chad Laurent, an SFS student from University of Michigan.

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Industrial Impacts

Ecotourism, as an industry, can be either beneficial or harmful to the environment. Search today's paper for an example of industrial development. What are the impacts of this development, according to the article(s)? What other impacts do you think might result from the development?



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Rainforest Ecosystems



by **Anne Koenke**

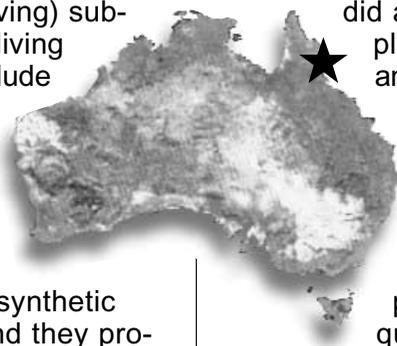
An ecosystem consists of the organisms in a community

and their interactions with their environment. You and I are part of an ecosystem, whether we live in a city, the suburbs, or on a farm.

The two main components of an ecosystem are biotic (living) organisms and abiotic (non-living) substances. The living organisms include autotrophs (producers) and heterotrophs (consumers). Autotrophs include photosynthetic organisms, and they provide energy to the ecosystem by converting sunlight

into energy. Heterotrophs cannot produce their own food and rely on eating other organisms for energy.

The plants and animals of ecosystems together form a biome. Biomes are "life zones" of interrelated plants and animals. The composition of these zones is determined by the climate and landscape. We are in the tropical rainforest biome, which, of the terrestrial biomes, is the richest in diversity. Last week we



did a study of plant diversity, and in a quarter-acre plot found 60 different plant species. By contrast, temperate forest quarter-acre plots usually contain 10 to 15 plant species. Tropical rainforests are more diverse because there are few limits on plant growth, and there is a lot of sun and water. Diversity helps the rainforest sustain itself. The producers, consumers, and decomposers all work together to create the lush rainforests we see today.

Anne Koenke is an SFS student from Colorado College.



Q. Is life at the Center different from your regular lives at home?

A. There are some similarities and differences. We have drinkable water, electric lights, refrigerators, and nice cabins at the Center, just like we have at home. We spend our weekdays in school, and we play games, shop, or see movies in nearby towns on the weekend.

There are some things, however, that are different than in our regular lives. For instance, we have only one source of drinkable water. We also carry our flashlights during the day so we can return to our cabins safely after dark. We also carry rain gear all the time. Most importantly, we learned to be very careful with wildlife. We wear boots in case we encounter snakes.

Answered by Brooke Crowley, an SFS student from Vassar College.

Problem Solving

Read an article in the newspaper that shows people trying to solve a problem. How could you help them? Write a letter to the school newspaper posing a solution to a problem you see in your school.



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You are What You Eat



by Sara Beth Scadlock

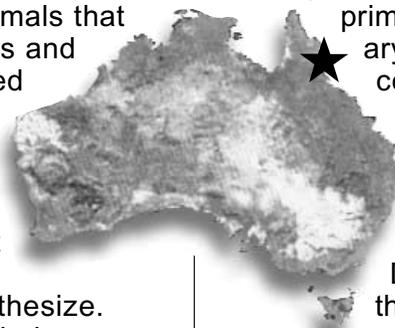
Food chains are "chain reactions" in which one organism

eats another and then, in turn, gets eaten by another. If an animal eats only vegetation it is called an herbivore, and if it eats only meat it is called a carnivore. Animals that eat both plants and meat are called omnivores.

All food chains begin with the sun providing light so that plants can photosynthesize. Plants make their own food this way. In a simple food chain a grasshopper may eat a plant, a frog

may eat the grasshopper, and a python may eat the frog. Here in the wet tropics, food chains tend to be short because there aren't any large carnivores.

The primary producers are the plants that are consumed by herbivores on the first level of the food chain. Consumers exist on many levels in a food chain, and they are given names like



primary, secondary, and tertiary consumers, depending on how far up the food chain they eat.

Decomposers, though they are very important, are the most commonly overlooked part of the food chain because we don't usually see them. They are the tiny, often microscopic, bacteria, fungi, and insects that break down dead organisms. Their activity recycles the nutrients that the plants and animals contain, returning them to the soil to be used again.

Sara Beth Scadlock is an SFS student from Northland College.



Q. What do animals in the rainforest eat?

A. There are many things for animals to eat in the rainforest. For example, birds feed on different parts of plants. Nectivores, such as honeyeater birds, feed on the nectar of flowers. Many parrots and cockatoos are considered frugivores because they eat the fruits of plants. Still other birds, called granivores, primarily eat seeds. Sometimes we see emerald doves scratching and pecking at the ground for seeds.

Because many reptiles and amphibians rely on insects as part of their diet, they are called insectivores. There are a lot of insects in the rainforest, so it is easy for snakes and frogs to find food.

The rainforest is a rich place for animals to find food.

Answered by Tiffany Young, an SFS student from Oregon State University.



Classifying the Newspaper

How is today's newspaper organized? What are the different parts of the newspaper? Are there different types of articles? Make a list of the different sections in the paper and then assemble a scrapbook that shows each different type of article.

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Special Edition



Tree Kangaroos by Chris Tremblay

Tree kangaroos are members of

the kangaroo family that, over a long evolutionary period, adapted to life in trees while leaving their kangaroo cousins to a life on the ground. They are also known as tree climbers, gray tree kangaroos, and tree wallabies. The names given them by aboriginal folk are *jarabeena*, *tcharibeena*, and *boongarry*.

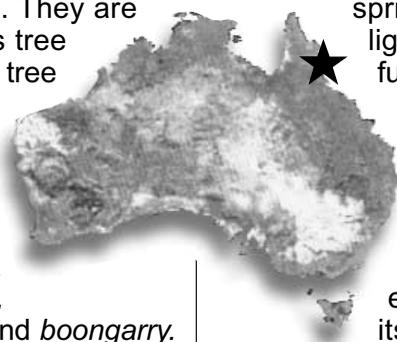
Australia's largest tree kangaroo is the Bennett's tree kangaroo (*Dendrolagus bennettianus*). It is identified by an overall dark brown color, a grayish tinge to

forehead and snout, and rusty brown shoulders, neck, and back of the head. It has black fore- and hindfeet. Its tail has a black patch at the base and a light patch on surface.

The other tree kangaroo found in Australia is Lumholtz's tree kangaroo (*Dendrolagus lumholtzi*). It is identified by a blackish-brown body color sprinkled with lighter-colored fur on the lower part of its back. There is a light band across its forehead and down each side of its face. It has long and heavily-muscled forearms, and its tail is all blackish-brown.

The tree kangaroo populations were depleted with the clearing of lowland rainforest lands for logging. Logging still continues, but population numbers of tree kangaroos are increasing in several national parks and reserves because they can flourish without human interference. Oh yeah, and kangaroos are really cute too!

Chris Tremblay is an SFS student from Endicott College.



Q. What steps do you take to guard against the poisonous snakes?

A. The best way to guard against poisonous snakes is to avoid them altogether. This is not always possible, so we do take certain precautions to avoid snake bites. While on site, we must wear boots or sneakers at all times; open-toed shoes are not allowed. Walking through the woods, we make as much noise as possible with our feet, because the snakes will feel the vibrations and slither in the opposite direction. If we actually see a poisonous snake on a path, we don't corner it or play with it. We simply find an alternate route around the snake. If a snake does bite someone, we quickly take him or her to the hospital to receive antivenin.

Answered by Chris Delfausse, an SFS student from Connecticut College.

Editorials and Opinions

Read an editorial in the "Op-Ed" section of the newspaper. Discuss the issue with the class. Write a letter to the editor (as a class or in teams) expressing your opinion about the issue.



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Behavioral Adaptations



by **Chad Laurent**

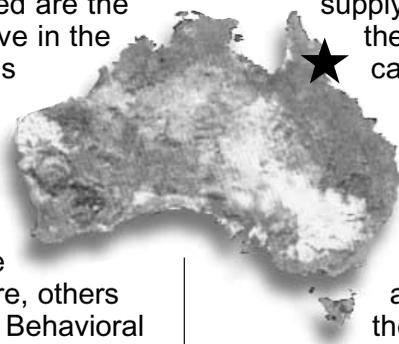
In order to survive in their environment, animals and plants

must be adapted to their surroundings. While some organisms are well adapted to their environment, others are not. The species that are best adapted are the ones that survive in the long run. This is where the term "survival of the fittest" comes from.

While some adaptations are genetic in nature, others are behavioral. Behavioral adaptations are actions taken by an organism which help it to survive in its home environment. If an animal

has successful behavioral adaptations, it is more likely to pass along its traits (and genes) to future generations. This process, known as natural selection, helps ensure the survival of a species.

Australia is full of examples of behavioral adaptations in animals. For instance, some Australian animals have figured out how to increase their food supply by eating the poisonous cane toad.



Cane toads have poison glands on their necks, and when they are attacked, the poison—capable of killing a dog—is released. Some animals have learned to eat only the toad's back legs, thus avoiding the poison. Other animals, like the Australian white ibis, flip the cane toad onto its back to kill and eat it, again avoiding the poison. These behavioral adaptations help the animals to better survive in their environment.

Chad Laurent is an SFS student from the University of Michigan.



Q. Why are cane toads so disliked?

A. Scientists introduced canes toads to Australia hoping that they would eat sugar cane grubs, insects that were ruining the sugar cane crop in Queensland. Unfortunately, these scientists were not thorough in their research on the toads. It turns out that when the sugar cane grub is active, the cane toad isn't. So the toad doesn't eat the grub, and the grub continues to eat sugar cane roots. Instead of eating the grubs, the toads eat lots of native Australian wildlife that they shouldn't eat, compete with other species for food and space, and they reproduce like crazy. Now widespread in Queensland, the cane toad is considered to be an invasive pest, causing an ecological mess.

Answered by Jennie Rudderham, an SFS student from Knox College.

Adaptation

Search the paper for examples of people or individuals who have adapted to their environment or to a special situation. How did they adapt? Was it easy for them to change? How would you deal with the same situation(s)?



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Aboriginal History

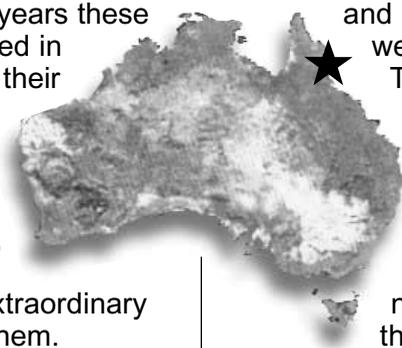


by **Alissa Martucci**

Aborigines, the indigenous people of Australia, have lived in

Australia for over 140,000 years. More than 700 traditional aboriginal tribes once occupied Australia, and for thousands of years these inhabitants lived in harmony with their natural surroundings. In lush rainforest and barren desert, their environments held extraordinary meaning for them.

Indigenous Australians utilized their natural surroundings for everything from physical nourishment to spiritual and religious ceremonies. Their traditional



beliefs were often passed on orally through the generations. Because of this, family relationships were very important in keeping aboriginal culture alive.

Unfortunately, when Europeans began to settle Australia in the late 1800s, many aboriginal traditions were lost. Europeans invaded sacred aboriginal lands, and many families were separated.

Tribes were disconnected and concentrated into mission camps where they could not practice their oral histories, customs, or religious beliefs. By the mid-1900s, many tribes had been assimilated into western culture, their traditional customs lost.

Some aboriginal traditions survived European invasion, and, today, tribal elders are working to educate their people about their customs. Hopefully, future generations will pass these stories onto others and keep their unique culture alive.

Sara Beth Scadlock is an SFS student from Northland College.



Q. Have you ever seen a red-eyed tree frog?

A. No, I have not seen a red-eyed tree frog here at the Center for Rainforest Studies. Red-eyed tree frogs are usually found further south along the Australian coast. However, as the wet season approaches the rain will bring out an abundance of strange and beautiful frogs. Many of these frogs are endemic to this area, which means they are found nowhere else in the entire world! Among the endemic species is the northern barred frog. I've seen this wide-eyed creature many times on cool nights after it rains. It is usually olive-brown with tiger-like stripes, but the last one I saw had crimson back legs.

Answered by Jane Buck, an SFS student from Millsaps College.

Comic Relief

Read the comics in today's newspaper. Choose one comic and report to the class how it is a reflection of modern life. Is it making a political, social or cultural statement? What does the comic mean to you?



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Fire in the Rainforest



by **Anna Marchefka**

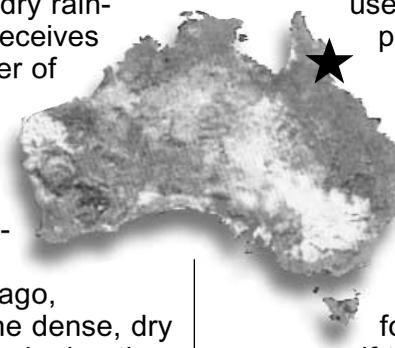
Thousands of years ago, the Atherton Tablelands were domi-

nated by three basic forest types: sclerophyll, which contains dry eucalypt vegetation; wet rainforest, which receives 2–3 meters of rain per year; and dry rainforest, which receives up to one meter of rain per year.

When the aborigines arrived in the Australian rainforest about 38,000 years ago, they burned the dense, dry rainforest to make hunting easier. Once the dry rainforest was burned, sclerophyll forest gradually grew up in its place, encouraging

new plants and animals to take root and make their homes.

When Europeans came to Australia, a non-burning policy prevented aborigines from using fire to hunt. As a result, dry rainforest vegetation overran the sclerophyll again and reduced the amount of sclerophyll habitat. Today, fire management is still not widely used, and sclerophyll forest remains on the decline.



What does this mean for the animals that live in sclerophyll forests? Well, if the sclerophyll forests continue to decline, animals living in sclerophyll areas will be seriously affected. It is possible that if sclerophyll forests disappear altogether, animals endemic to those areas will also disappear. In order to ensure the survival of these native species, fire management education needs to be a part of rainforest management.

Anna Marchefka is an SFS student from Smith College.



Q. What have you learned about Australian aboriginal culture?

A. Although our program is focused mainly on the ecological, botanical, and economical aspects of the rainforest, we have learned about Australian aboriginal culture as well. Our site manager, Gus, has spoken to us about the Yidinji tribe that he belongs to. He told us how his tribe uses the forest to survive by eating native fruits and plants and by using plants for medicine. We also visited with three other Yidinji members who told us the history of the Atherton Tableland aborigines. Their message to us is to treat the rainforest as our home and to love it and take care of it as if it were our mother.

Answered by Bob Pagliuco, an SFS student from University of Massachusetts-Amherst

Natural Disasters

Fire can be a powerfully destructive and creative force. Read an article about fire or another force of nature. Lead a classroom discussion about the benefits of these potentially destructive forces.



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Forest Exploitation



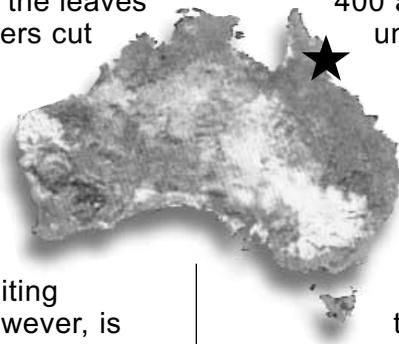
by **Kristina Fisher**

Using forest, soil and land resources is not necessarily bad.

Like all animals, humans use resources to survive; we grow food from the soil and use wood for housing, heat, and paper. Other animals exploit resources, too—deer eat the leaves of trees, beavers cut trees for their dams, and prairie dogs burrow into the soil to build their dens.

Overexploiting resources, however, is very bad. When we over-exploit resources, we use

them faster than they are naturally replaced. For example, in a forest of 500 trees, if 50 new trees grow each year from seeds, we can cut down 50 trees every year without affecting the size of the forest. The trees we take are replaced by seedlings. On the other hand, if we cut 100 trees each year in the same forest, the forest will shrink from 500 to 450 to 400 and so on, until it disappears. That is overexploitation.



In order to prevent overexploitation, we must practice sustainable tree harvesting—

removing trees at a rate that does not permanently damage or reduce the size of the rainforest. At the Center for Rainforest Studies we are studying our environment to discover how to accomplish this. If we utilize the forest at a sustainable level, it will last forever.

Kristina Fisher is an SFS student from Williams College.

Q. What kind of food do you eat?



A. At breakfast, we eat cereals, yogurt, and fruit. Jelly, Vegemite, peanut butter, and cinnamon sugar are also available for toast. For lunch, we eat leftovers and sandwiches: peanut butter and jelly; vegetables and cheese; and tuna or lunch meat are our staples. Dinner is the best meal. Our cook, Alan, is great. He is a vegetarian, so every night he makes both meat and non-meat dishes (yummy!). Tonight we had sesame meat and veggies, noodles, green beans, and potatoes stuffed with tomatoes, cheese, and refried beans. At other dinners, we eat nachos, spaghetti, shepherd's pie, or salads. Best of all, students bake cookies or brownies for a late-night dessert.

Answered by Jennifer Rudderham, an SFS student from Knox College.

Resource Letter

Produce a list of five resources that you think are used to make a newspaper. Write a letter to a local newspaper and find out what resources they use, where the resources come from, and how much of them are used in one year of newspaper production.



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Conservation



by **Crystal Keck**

In dictionaries, conservation and preservation often have

the same meaning, and they appear as synonyms in the thesaurus. However, these two words have slightly different meanings.

Preservation means protecting something that is pristine and untouched *before* it can become exploited.

Preservation areas are created to protect local flora and fauna.

Conservation is more of a means to save or keep what remains in an area after humans have had an impact. For instance, one might build a trail in a national park so that peo-

ple will concentrate most of their impact on the area close to the trail. This would leave the wild areas around it undisturbed. Another act of conservation might be to restore vegetation on a river bank by planting trees or native grasses.

Conservation and preservation both offer good ways to protect the environment.

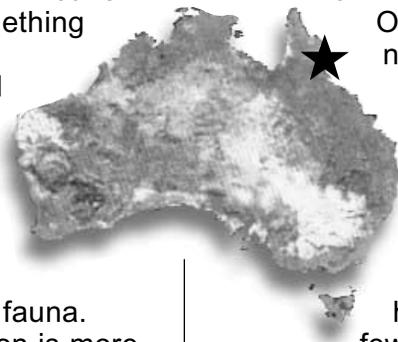
One is not necessarily better than another.

Here at CRS, we focus a lot on conservation. We have done a

few re-plantings

along waterways and on the edges of the rainforest to improve the quality of the water, soil, and habitat for wildlife. We have also planted vegetation connecting rainforest fragments to help rainforest animals expand the areas in which they live. Through conservation, we hope to improve the health of the rainforest.

Crystal Keck is an SFS student from Austin State University.



Q. How do you measure the age of a tree?



A. There are a couple of ways to do this. The first is to drill a hole through a tree trunk with a small hollow metal tube. When you pull it out and remove the small piece of wood that has filled the tube (the core), you can count growth rings to see how old it is—each ring is a year's growth. You can also determine a tree's age by counting the growth rings on the stump of a tree that has been cut down. If you count the rings from the edge to the center, the number that you come up with is a good estimate of the tree's age. Believe it or not, some of the trees in Australia's rainforest literally may be hundreds of years old!

Answered by Natalie Jewell, an SFS student from California Polytechnic State University.

Conservation

Look in today's paper for articles about conservation or ways to conserve and protect the environment. How can you be involved in the wise and careful use of natural resources?



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Rainforest Live!

Center for Rainforest Studies, Queensland, Australia



Rainforest Careers



by **Chris Delfausse**

If one wants to work in the rainforest, there are a wide variety

of careers to choose from. The professionals at work in the rainforest include ecologists, biologists, geologists, botanists, professors, and economists.

The ecologist studies biological ecosystems and the effects of outside events on those ecosystems (such as what happens to animals if their habitat is destroyed). A biologist studies living organisms: how they behave and live in relation to other living things in the rainforest. A geologist studies the rocks and landforms of the region, both

of which are important for dating and identifying soils.

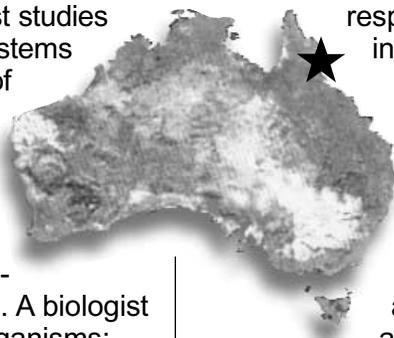
A botanist studies the different plant species in the rainforest, the conditions they live under, and the proper environment in which they will grow. A botanist also studies the soil seed banks of the rainforest.

Then there is the professor, whose job it is to educate people about the rainforest.

A professor's responsibilities include giving historical accounts of how the rainforest has been changed or destroyed and the actions that have been taken to re-vegetate it. The economist studies the economic outcomes of logging the rainforest, replanting the rainforest, or just leaving it as it is. The economist is also concerned with who is employed in the area and how much money is coming in and out of the surrounding towns.

We have interacted with all of these professionals this semester.

Chris Delfausse is an SFS student from Connecticut College.



Q. What is your favorite thing about the rainforest?



A. There are so many wonderful parts of the forest, from the hopping pademelons and bandicoots to the beautiful green waterfalls. One of the coolest experiences has been seeing and touching living trees that are unbelievably old—trees that have lived for many human lifetimes. We've seen a red cedar and several fig trees that were as large as small skyscrapers. They've been alive for centuries, through the time of knights and castles, the ages of great explorers, the inventions of steam power, electric lights, and airplanes, right up to the creation of the Internet. How many more great events will they live through? I keep these ancient trees in mind when we plant young seedlings.

Answered by Kristina G. Fisher, an SFS student from Williams College.



Job Search

Go through the Help Wanted section of the newspaper. Find one or more jobs that you think you would like. What skills or talents do you need to do the job? Do you need a special educational degree?

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