

Fascinating Facts About Forests!



Forests are areas of land covered by **towering trees**. They can be found almost all over the world – from the snows of deepest **Alaska** to the tropical heat of **Malaysia**, and beyond. Experts estimate that forests cover roughly a **third of the earth's surface**! What's more, they play a key role in **controlling climate**, **making oxygen**, **keeping soil healthy** acting as **windbreaks** and helping to **prevent flooding**!

Forests are packed full of wonderful wildlife, providing homes for more than **three-quarters** of the world's land species, from fascinating **fungi** and brilliant **birds** to amazing **apes** and marvelous **moose**! Forests provide **food**, **shelter**, and **safe places** for animals to hide and breed.

Sadly, forests are being lost to **deforestation** – meaning they're **cut down for timber** or to make way for **roads**, **mines**, **houses** and **farming**.

FUN FACT!
There are three **main types** of forests – **boreal**, **temperate**, and **tropical**!



Fungi comes in all sorts of shapes, sizes, and colours!



You can tell how old a tree is by counting the rings in its trunk!

FUN FACT!

Forests can be made up of **hundreds of billions of trees**!



Spending time in forests has been proven to help people relax!



Forests are home to **68%** of the world's **mammal species**!

Did you know?

- Trees are the **longest-living organisms on Earth** – they never die of old age!
- **NASA astronauts** and the **US Forest Service** teamed up to grow **seeds on the Moon**!
- Trees can **share nutrients** and even **warn one another of danger**!

The good news is that charities, conservation groups, and people around the world are working to stop deforestation, and **you can help, too!**



Spread the word!

Talk to your friends and family about the importance of forests.



Raise awareness!

Support a charity that protects forests – try hosting a bake sale at your school with your parents.



Grow your own!

Plant something new in your backyard, in a window box, or find out if there are any community gardens that need volunteers near you.