

Edexcel Geography GCSE

Forests Under Threat

Flashcards

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Abiotic components



Abiotic components

Non-living environmental factors that have influence over the ecosystem (e.g. climate, light exposure, soil type).



Acid rain



Acid rain

Rain with a pH of around 4, formed when chemicals from industrial processes react with water in clouds to form acids.



Adaptation



Adaptation

An evolved trait of an animal or plant that helps them to cope with environmental stresses.



Biodiversity



Biodiversity

A large variety of animal and plant life living in the same ecosystem.



Biofuels



Biofuels

Fuels produced from biomass (i.e. organic matter).



Biomass



Biomass

Total mass of organisms in a set area.



Biome



Biome

Also known as a global-scale ecosystem; a large, distinct region of the Earth with similar climate, soil, plants and animals.



Biotic components



Biotic components

Living organisms that interact with the environment and other organisms within an ecosystem.



Buttress roots



Buttress roots

Large, thick tree roots that grow above the ground in tropical rainforests.



Camouflage



Camouflage

An animal adaptation where animals purposefully look like their surroundings to hide from predators.



Canopy



Canopy

The layer of a tropical rainforest where the tops of trees touch, forming a dense area of vegetation.



Carbon sink



Carbon sink

Something that absorbs more carbon dioxide than it emits, causing a net loss of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.



Cattle ranching



Cattle ranching

The rearing of cows on large areas of land, usually to produce meat to sell for a profit.



CITES



CITES

(The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna & Flora)
an international agreement that works to protect threatened wildlife from exploitation.



Clear felling



Clear felling

A form of logging where all trees in an area are cut down.



Climate change



Climate change

A distinct change in global or regional patterns of climate, such as changes in temperature or precipitation patterns.



Commercial farming



Commercial farming

Agriculture that is intended to create surplus produce to sell for a profit.



Conifers



Conifers

Cone-bearing trees that are usually evergreen and have needle-shaped leaves, native to colder environments.



Conservation



Conservation

Taking action to ensure a resource or environment is not depleted and over-exploited.



Consumers



Consumers

Organisms that receive energy from consuming (i.e. eating) living organisms.



Debt-for-nature swaps



Debt-for-nature swaps

Agreements where one country reduces the amount of debt owed by another country in return for the owing country putting efforts into environmental conservation.



Decomposers



Decomposers

Organisms that break down organic material and release the nutrients back into the ecosystem.



Deforestation



Deforestation

The permanent (and usually large-scale) removal of trees.



Drip-tip



Drip-tip

An adaptation of a leaf where the end of the leaf is tapered, allowing rainwater to drip off.



Drought



Drought

A sustained period of abnormally dry weather.



Ecosystem



Ecosystem

A natural system in which a community of plants and animals interact with each other and their physical environment.



Ecotourism



Ecotourism

Tourism that aims to have reduced environmental impact and supports conservation efforts, making it sustainable.



Epiphytes



Epiphytes

Plants that live on the surface of other plants, receiving nutrients from these plants.



Food web



Food web

A representation of the interactions between multiple producers and consumers within a specific ecosystem, shown through a series of different food webs.



Forest fire



Forest fire

An uncontrolled fire that burns woodland and vegetation (also called a wildfire).



Fossil fuels



Fossil fuels

Fuels made up of the remains of organic material, such as oil, coal and gas.



Fuel wood



Fuel wood

Wood that is burnt to provide energy.



Growing season



Growing season

The time of the year when temperatures and precipitation levels are high enough that plants can grow.



Hibernation



Hibernation

An adaptation where animals sleep through the entire winter by entering a state of extremely reduced activity to conserve energy.



Hydroelectric power (HEP)



Hydroelectric power (HEP)

Energy harnessed from the movement of water.



Indigenous peoples



Indigenous peoples

The earliest known settlers in an area



Interdependence



Interdependence

The concept of multiple things depending on each other for survival.



Leaching



Leaching

A process in soils where minerals are washed away by water (usually rainfall).



Lianas



Lianas

Woody vines found in tropical rainforests; their roots grow on the forest floor, but the vines stretch high into the canopy.



Litter



Litter

Organic matter that falls onto a forest floor.



Logging



Logging

The process of cutting down trees for wood.



Migration



Migration

The seasonal movement of animals.



Nutrient cycling



Nutrient cycling

The transfer of nutrients through an ecosystem, from the decay of organic material into the production and energy of living organisms.



Nutrients



Nutrients

Elements or compounds that support the growth of plants and animals, such as phosphates, potassium, magnesium, and nitrogen.



Open-cast mining



Open-cast mining

A mining technique where an area is cleared and resources are mined close to the surface, rather than underground (also called strip mining).



Plantations



Plantations

Farms where crops are grown in large amounts with the intention to sell for a profit.



Producers



Producers

Organisms that convert energy from the environment (mainly sunlight) into sugars (glucose).



Productivity



Productivity

A measure of new plant and animal growth in a given time, usually measured in grams per square metre per year.



Pulp and paper production



Pulp and paper production

The process of making paper from softwood.



REDD



REDD

(Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation) a group of United Nations-run schemes with the aim to reduce the environmental impact of poorly managed forests.



Replanting



Replanting

Planting a tree after cutting down a tree, so that theoretically the environmental impact of deforestation is reduced.



Runoff



Runoff

Rainwater that flows over the Earth's surface.



Selective logging



Selective logging

A form of logging where only certain trees are cut down to reduce the environmental effects of logging.



Slash-and-burn



Slash-and-burn

A farming practice where plants and trees are cut down and then purposefully burnt to clear the area.



Subsistence farming



Subsistence farming

Agriculture that is intended to produce only enough food for the farmer and their family to eat.



Sustainability



Sustainability

The ability to continue with an activity or process far into the future at the same rate.



Sustainable forestry



Sustainable forestry

Management strategies that work to reduce the environmental impacts of commercial forest use, allowing forestry to continue into the future at the same rate.



Taiga biome



Taiga biome

A biome located at high latitudes, characterised by conifer trees and a cold climate.



Tar sands



Tar sands

An area with natural deposits of oil mixed with sediments and water.



Tropical rainforest biome



Tropical rainforest biome

A biome located near the equator, characterised by very high precipitation and sustained warm temperatures.



Understory



Understory

The layer of a tropical rainforest that lies beneath the canopy but above the forest floor.



Weathering



Weathering

The breakdown of soil and rock through chemical or physical processes.



Wilderness



Wilderness

An area that is untouched by humans, and therefore remains unaffected by human activity.

