



WVS EDUCATION

HEADING TOWARDS EXTINCTION...

WVS.ORG.UK/EDUCATION

ENTRY TICKET – SHOW WITH YOUR FINGERS...

How sure are you that you can explain how changes to rainforests impact the animals that live there?



1 – Unsure



2 – Slightly
sure



3 – Quite
sure



4 – Certain

PART 1: **DISCOVER THE ISSUE**

PICTURES FROM A VET



Look at the 3 photographs.

What can you **see**? What do you **wonder**? What **connections** can you make?

RAINFOREST



LOGGING



SLOTH

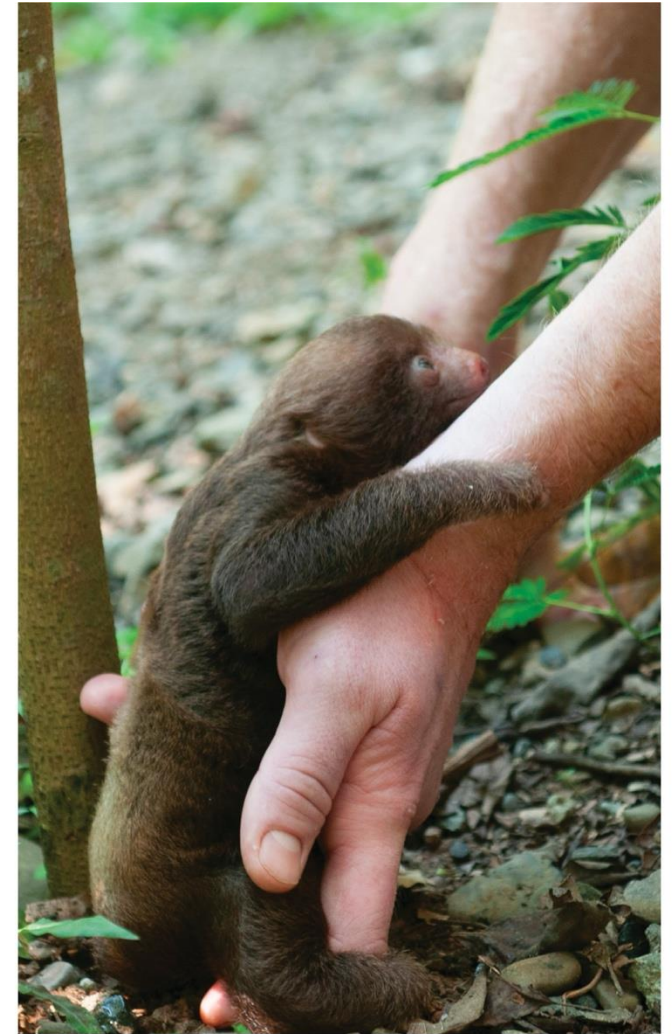


WVS VET REPORT



This week, WVS have been treating an orphaned baby sloth from a rainforest in Panama. Some species of sloth are critically endangered – there are less than 50 pygmy three-toed sloths left in the wild!

Sloths are at risk of extinction because of changes to the environments where they live.



WHY DO ENVIRONMENTS CHANGE?

Changes to an environment can have serious consequences for the animals that live there.

There are two main reasons why environments can change:

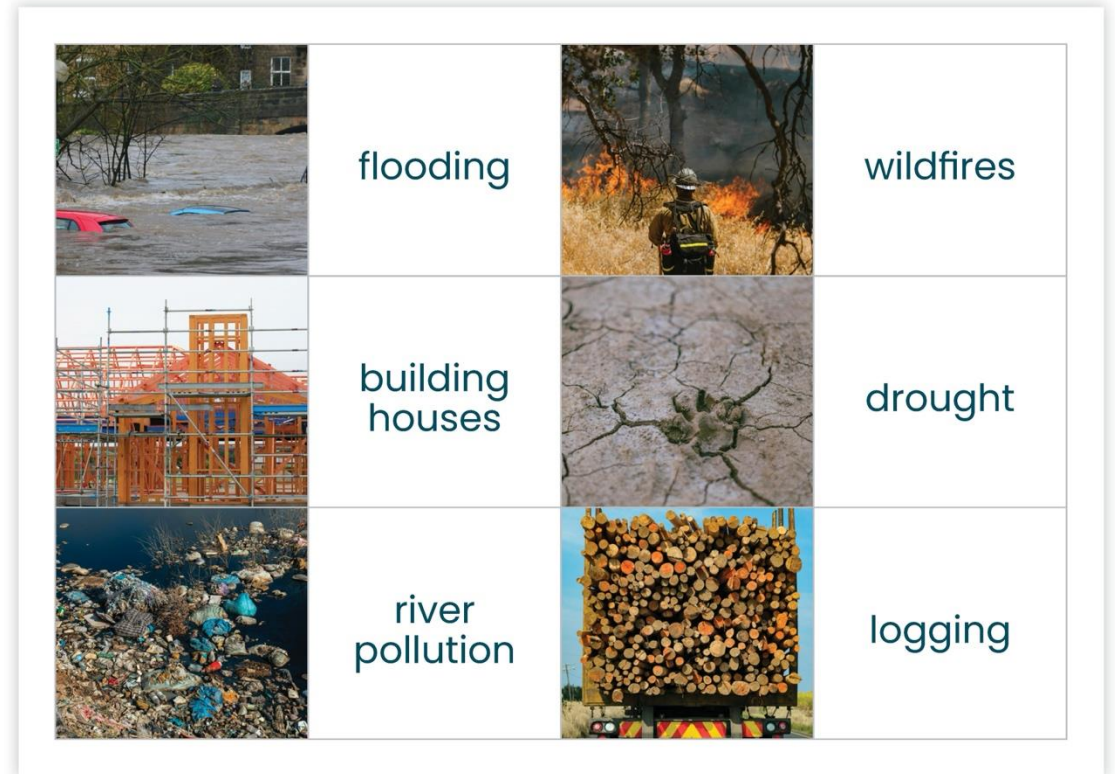
1. Through natural events. Most of these changes cannot be avoided.
2. Through human activities.



WHAT CHANGES AFFECT RAINFORESTS ENVIRONMENTS?

Look at the pictures which show different ways that rainforest environments can change.

Sort the pictures by deciding whether each change happens naturally or is caused by humans.



PART 2:
JOIN THE ADVENTURE

QUESTION TO INVESTIGATE

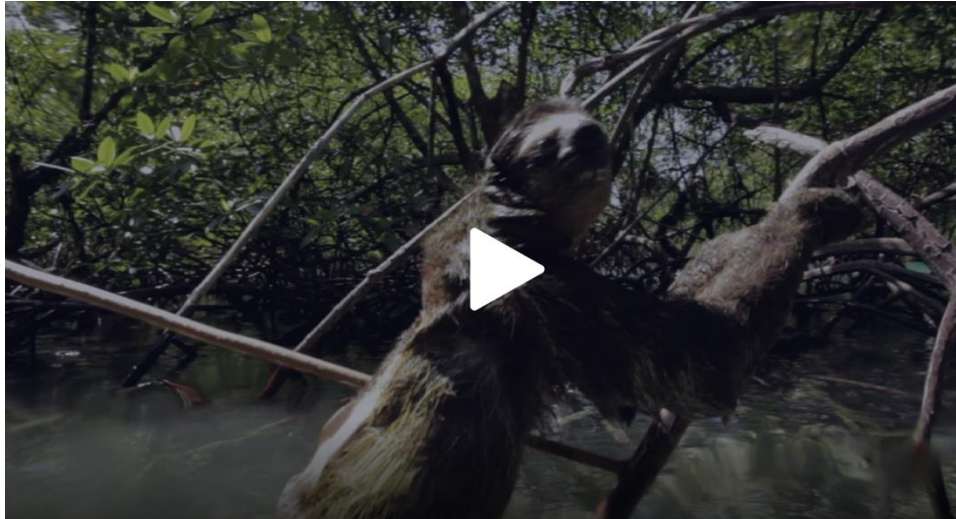
How do changes to rainforests impact the animals that live there?

Use secondary sources to answer the enquiry question.



USING SECONDARY SOURCES

Use the video and fact sheet to learn more about sloths.
Then complete the recording sheet to show how sloths
are impacted by different changes to the rainforest.



SLOTH FACTSHEET



SHELTER

Sloths live almost exclusively in the trees. They are arboreal animals. Trees provide shelter from the heat, rain and wind. Sloths use their long claws to help them hang from the tree branches. This is where they sleep, eat and socialise. Sloths are almost completely blind in bright daylight. Trees provide a shady habitat where sloths can move around safely.

TRANSPORT

Sloths use the network of trees as a way to move around. They crawl and hang from the tree branches as they search the rainforest for food.

About once a week, sloths will come down from the trees to use the forest floor as a toilet. However, they will then retreat back to the safety of the treetops.

FOOD

Trees are the main source of food for all species of sloths. They eat the tree leaves although this is not a very nutritious diet. It can take up to 30 days for sloths to digest just one leaf! Sloths do not gain much energy from the food they eat which is why they move slowly.

PROTECTION

The trees provide protection for the sloths. Most sloths' fur is covered in a green-coloured layer of algae. This helps to camouflage them against predators such as harpy eagles. Slow movement through the trees helps to keep the sloths hidden from predators.

The rainforest floor is where predators such as ocelots and jaguars live. Sloths spend very little time on the forest floor as it poses the most danger.

WATER

Because sloths spend most of their time in the trees, their main source of water is the fresh leaves that they eat. When a sloth does come down from the trees, it may drink water from ponds or rivers.

PART 3:
BE THE CHANGE

WVS AND SLOTHS

We are treating an increasing number of animals in our clinics who have been affected by changes to their environments.

WVS care about endangered animals and will do everything we can to prevent extinction.



BE AN ANIMAL CHAMPION!

Take on the challenge to raise awareness about other animal species which are heading towards extinction.

Choose a letter from the alphabet then research an endangered animal beginning with that letter. Put your research together to make an A to Z of endangered animals.



EXIT TICKET – SHOW WITH YOUR FINGERS...

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LUKE GAMBLE TEACHES A BABY SLOTH TO POO!

Watch the video clip showing Luke Gamble teaching an orphaned sloth how to poo for the first time!





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