Comprehension

TASK 4	Read the passage below carefully then answer the questions (1 to 10) based on it. Please use complete and proper sentences to provide your answers.

Rainforests are lush, warm, wet habitats. Trees in the rainforest grow very tall because they have to compete with other plants for sunlight. Kapok trees, which are found in tropical rainforests around the world, can grow to 200 feet. The tallest trees spread their branches and leaves blocking the light from the trees below, and creating a canopy over the forest. When one of the big trees dies and falls, the opening lets in more sunlight so that a smaller tree can grow and take its place.

The rainforest has four layers. The emergent layer is made up of the very tallest trees that rise higher than the rest of the forest. In the next layer, the canopy, the leaves and branches of the trees all touch one another or are connected by vines. Most animals in the rainforest live in the canopy. The layer below the canopy is called the understory. Small trees and plants that do not need much light grow here. The last layer is the forest floor where only a few plants grow because it's so dark.

There are rainforests in Africa, Asia, Australia, and Central and South America. The biggest rainforest is the Amazon rainforest. It's about the size of the contiguous United States, which doesn't include Alaska or Hawaii. More than half of it is in Brazil, but parts are in several other South American countries, including Ecuador and Bolivia. The next biggest rainforest is the Congo in Africa. Parts of the Congo can be found in several other countries too, including the Democratic Republic of Congo and Cameroon.

Most rainforests are found along or near the Equator, where it tends to be hot. But some rainforests grow in temperate regions where it's cooler. Hoh Rainforest in Olympic National Park on the Pacific northwest coast of North America is an example of a temperate rainforest. Like tropical rainforests, temperate rainforests get lots of, well, rain.

Many kinds of plants grow in rainforests. Lianas are thick, woody vines that grow up the trees. When these vines get to the top of the trees, they spread to other trees and form a network of vines over the forest below. Orchids, bamboo, and bromeliads are other rainforest plants.

Adapted from: https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/nature/habitats/article/rain-forest

Comprehension

Questions

1. What is the primary reason trees in the rainforest grow very tall?

2. Name the four layers of the rainforest mentioned in the passage.

3. Where is the largest rainforest located, and what is it called?

4. What is the purpose of the canopy created by the tallest trees?

5. Which layer of the rainforest do most animals live in?

Comprehension

6. Describe the climate typically found where most rainforests are located.

7. Identify two countries, apart from Brazil, where parts of the Amazon rainforest can be found.

8. What is an example of a temperate rainforest, and where is it located?

9. List three types of plants that grow in the rainforest, according to the passage.

10. Explain the role of lianas in the rainforest ecosystem.

Comprehension

TASK 4	Read the passage below carefully then answer the questions (1 to 10) based on it. Please use complete and proper sentences to provide your answers.

A team of Mexican paleontologists excavated the remains of a new species of dinosaur that lived about 72 million years ago. Scientists named the species Tlatolophus galorum for the crest on its skull that looks like the tlahtolli, a comma-like symbol in Aztec art. (The Aztecs were people who lived in what's now central Mexico from 1345 to 1521.)

Plant-eating Tlatolophus probably stretched about 26 feet from snout to tail and stood about 6.5 feet tall at the hip. Based on its well-preserved skull, scientists think that the animal was a close cousin of Parasaurolophus, which also has a fancy crest. Experts think the crest of Tlatolophus affected the sound of their calls and were therefore used to help them communicate.

Adapted from: https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/animals/prehistoric/article/amazing-dino-discoveries

Questions

1. Who discovered the remains of the new dinosaur species?

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2. How old are the remains of the dinosaur that were excavated?

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Comprehension

3. What name was given to the new dinosaur species, and what inspired this name?

4. What does the crest on the skull of Tlatolophus resemble?

5. How long was Tlatolophus estimated to be from snout to tail?

6. How tall was Tlatolophus estimated to be at the hip?

Comprehension

7. What type of diet did Tlatolophus have?

8. Which other dinosaur is Tlatolophus believed to be closely related to?

9. How do scientists believe the crest of Tlatolophus was used?

10. Where did the Aztecs, who inspired part of the dinosaur's name, live?

Comprehension

TASK 4	Read the passage below carefully then answer the questions (1 to 10) based on it. Please use complete and proper sentences to provide your answers.

Parrotfish nibble on algae growing on dead coral, but sometimes they accidentally swallow coral, too. Luckily, their powerful teeth are well equipped to grind up the crunchy coral in their tropical ocean habitat.

Each fish has about a thousand teeth lined up in 15 continuously growing rows. All those teeth are fused together to form a strong, beak-like structure. (The parrot-like “beak” is how the fish got its name.) Another set of teeth, called pharyngeal teeth, further breaks down the coral bits even more in the fish’s throat. Scientists analyzing the structure of these chompers discovered that they’re harder than a penny. They can also withstand 530 tons of pressure—that’s the same as the weight of about 88 elephants!

If a parrotfish does accidentally digest coral, they poop it out as sand. Since these swimmers spend about 90 percent of their time snacking on algae, they create a lot of sandy waste. One large parrotfish can grind up enough coral to create up to 800 pounds of soft, white sand a year. In fact, up to 70 percent of the white sand found on some beaches in Hawaii and the Caribbean is made of the ground-up coral that these fish leave behind.

Questions

1. What do parrotfish typically nibble on, and what do they sometimes accidentally swallow?

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2. How are parrotfish teeth adapted to handle coral?

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Comprehension

3. Approximately how many teeth does each parrotfish have?

4. What unique feature do parrotfish teeth have, and how does this feature help them?

5. What is the function of the pharyngeal teeth in parrotfish?

6. How strong are parrotfish teeth compared to common objects?

Comprehension

7. What happens to coral that a parrotfish accidentally digests?

8. How much sand can a large parrotfish create in a year?

9. How much of the white sand on some Hawaiian and Caribbean beaches comes from parrotfish?

10. Why do parrotfish create so much sandy waste?

Comprehension

TASK 4	Read the passage below carefully then answer the questions (1 to 10) based on it. Please use complete and proper sentences to provide your answers.

Healthy coral reefs need space to grow and low levels of harmful algae. Luckily, parrotfish are common around tropical reefs all over the world, and their eating habits can help coral reefs stay healthy.

When the algae-eaters chomp down on coral, they create gaps in the reef that are filled in by new coral growth. The tropical fish also clear away excess algae, which can smother the coral and prevent it from growing. Without parrotfish, the whole coral ecosystem would collapse.

About 80 identified species of parrotfish live throughout in the world. Two types—the greenback and bumphead—are declining in population because of overfishing and habitat destruction.

But thanks in part to new marine protected areas, where it's against the law to catch parrotfish, scientists expect these numbers to rise. These protected regions include the Gulf of Mexico; the Atlantic Ocean around the Bahamas; and the Indian Ocean near the Maldives, an island nation near Sri Lanka.

Adpated from: https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/animals/fish/facts/parrotfish

Questions

1. What do healthy coral reefs need in order to grow?

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2. How do parrotfish contribute to the health of coral reefs?

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Comprehension

3. What happens when parrotfish chomp down on coral?

4. Why is it important for parrotfish to clear away excess algae?

5. What could happen to the coral ecosystem without parrotfish?

6. Approximately how many species of parrotfish are identified globally?

Comprehension

7. Name two types of parrotfish that are declining in population.

8. What are two reasons for the decline in population of certain parrotfish species?

9. How are new marine protected areas helping parrotfish populations?

10. List three regions mentioned in the passage that have marine protected areas for parrotfish.

Comprehension

TASK 4	Read the passage below carefully then answer the questions (1 to 10) based on it. Please use complete and proper sentences to provide your answers.

Christmas is a very social time in Trinidad and Tobago with most people having parties. Both children and adults go from house to house between neighbors and relatives for food and drink. The radio stations play Trinidadian Christmas carols and songs as well as traditional and contemporary carols from the USA.

A special Trinidadian music, Parang, is also played. Parang is an upbeat Venezuela-Trinidad hybrid music normally sung in Spanish. Now there's also 'soca parang' where songs are sung in English. In the evenings around Christmas, many people like to be 'Parranderos' and go from house to house singing Christmas songs. Lots of different instruments are used in Parang including guitars and cuatros (a small four stringed guitar), violins, maracas (called chac-chacs) and (two wooden blocks which are known as toc-toc). If you've been good at singing, you'll hopefully be given some food and drink.

Most people paint and make repairs to their houses and hang new curtains and decorations (especially lights) for Christmas. Often, this is the time that most people buy new electrical appliances and furniture. Most families spend Christmas Day at home with friends and family members.

The Christmas day meal is usually prepared throughout mid-December, and into the new year! The traditional Trinibagonian Christmas meal include apples and grapes, sorrel, ponche-de-creme (a version of egg nog), ham, turkey, homemade bread, ginger beer, pastelles (a version of tamales) and local wine.

Trinidadian Christmas fruitcake is traditional and is eaten in most homes. The fruits (such as raisins and sultanas) in the cake are usually soaked in cherry wine, sherry and rum for several months before Christmas!

Adapted from: https://www.whychristmas.com/cultures/trinidad-tobago

Comprehension

Questions

1. What is a popular social activity in Trinidad and Tobago during Christmas?

2. What types of Christmas music are commonly played on Trinidadian radio stations?

3. What is Parang, and what is its origin?

4. What is 'soca parang,' and how does it differ from traditional Parang?

5. What do people do in the evenings around Christmas in Trinidad and Tobago?

Comprehension

6. List three instruments commonly used in Parang music.

7. What household activities do Trinidadians typically do in preparation for Christmas?

8. Describe a traditional Christmas Day meal in Trinidad and Tobago.

9. What special dessert is commonly eaten during Christmas in Trinidad and Tobago, and how is it prepared?

10. Why are fruits soaked for Trinidadian Christmas fruitcake, and what liquids are typically used?