

MAKING NEW WORDS YOUR OWN

Lesson 22 CONTEXT: Ecology and Environment

What Is the Forecast for Brazil's Rain Forest?

The largest tropical rain forest in the world is located in Brazil's Amazon region. Many valuable woods and plants are found in this rain forest, as well as hundreds of species of animals. Today, Brazil's rain forest is threatened. Scientists worry that the mass cutting of trees may affect the world's climate and that many species of plants and animals may become extinct.

In the following exercises, you will have the opportunity to expand your vocabulary by reading about Brazil's rain forest. These ten Vocabulary Words will be used.

campaign conscience furious plot urge
 characteristic doubtless juvenile reduction widespread

EXERCISE 1 Wordbusting

Directions. Follow these instructions for this word and the nine words on the next page.

- Figure out the word's meaning by looking at its **context**, its **structure**, and its **sound**. Fill in at least one of the three CSS boxes. Alternate which boxes you complete.
- Then, look up the word in a dictionary, read all of its meanings, and write the meaning of the word as it is used in the sentence.
- Follow this same process for each of the Vocabulary Words on the next page. You will need to draw your own map for each word. Use a separate sheet of paper.

1.

campaign



A campaign to save the rain forests is underway. People hope to achieve the goal of saving the tropical forests through a series of planned actions.



Context:

Structure:

Sound:

Dictionary:

2.

characteristic

A major characteristic of Brazil's rain forest is the canopy. This unique feature is formed by the overlapping tops of trees. It acts as an umbrella over the forest.

3.

juvenile

In the forest, **juvenile** trees are dwarfed by taller ones. These young trees have to struggle to find sunlight.

4.

doubtless

Doubtless, many miners, farmers, and others will continue to resist efforts to save the rain forest. Of course, these people are concerned about making a living. They are afraid of what will happen if their activities are limited by the government.

5.

plot

Farmers have burned trees on certain **plots** in the rain forest. They then plant crops on these areas of ground.

6.

furious

Many of Brazil's farmers become extremely angry when they are told not to burn down trees in the rain forest. They feel that they have a right to earn a living and are **furious** when people tell them they cannot farm there.

7.

widespread

Scientists worry that the destruction of the rain forests will have **widespread** effect. In fact, they expect the results to be felt all around the world.

8.

reduction

Less burning of the rain forest would lead to a **reduction** in the amount of carbon dioxide in the air. Too much carbon dioxide might lead to global warming.

9.

conscience

You must decide for yourself whether the destruction of the rain forest should be stopped. Let your **conscience** help you decide what is right and what is wrong.

10.

urge

I urge you to find out as much as you can about the tropical rain forests. Once you have, you may want to persuade others to do the same.

EXERCISE 2**Context Clues** 

Directions. Scan the definitions in Column A. Then, think about how the boldface words are used in the sentences in Column B. To complete the exercise, match each definition in Column A with the correct Vocabulary Word from Column B. Write the letter of your choice on the line provided. Finally, write the Vocabulary Word on the line before the definition.

COLUMN A

11. word: _____
adj. young, immature, childish;
n. a young person, child or youth

12. word: _____
adv. certainly; probably; *adj.* sure

13. word: _____
n. a lessening; anything made by lessening something; the amount by which something is made smaller

14. word: _____
n. a small area of ground marked off for special use; a plan to do something dishonest; a story line; *v.* to plan secretly

15. word: _____
adj. occurring over a wide area; widely distributed or spread

16. word: _____
adj. full of rage; moving violently; intense

17. word: _____
n. a series of planned actions to achieve a goal; *v.* to promote a person actively for political office; to promote a cause

18. word: _____
adj. typical; *n.* a distinguishing feature

19. word: _____
v. to beg or plead; to persuade; to call forth; *v.* an impulse to do a certain thing

20. word: _____
n. a knowledge or sense of right and wrong, with a leaning toward doing right

COLUMN B

(A) Some people **plot** to smuggle endangered birds and other animals into the United States. They make their plans secretly because smuggling is a crime.

(B) A **characteristic** or normal day in the rain forest is very warm and humid. There is always a good chance that it will rain.

(C) The rain forest frequently experiences **furious**, or intense, thunderstorms.

(D) Cattle ranching and farming are becoming **widespread** in Brazil. Throughout the rain forest, huge ranches are appearing.

(E) A **reduction** in the number of trees in the rain forest means that fewer birds can nest there. Fewer trees will cause problems for monkeys and other animals, too.

(F) One environmentalist had an **urge** to write to Brazilian officials. From that sudden act, she eventually organized a meeting of top government leaders.

(G) **Doubtless**, much of Brazil's rain forest will be destroyed, probably within the next few years.

(H) **Juveniles** in the United States might not understand how the destruction of the rain forest touches them. It is hard for young people to see how something happening thousands of miles away can change their lives.

(I) If you were running for political office in Brazil, would you **campaign** to save the rain forest? Or would you put forward some other cause?

(J) The **consciences** of Brazil's elected officials will probably seal the fate of the rain forest. They have to balance what is right today with what is right for the future.

EXERCISE 3**Like Meanings and Opposite Meanings** 

Directions. For each item below, circle the letter of the choice that means the same, or about the same, as the boldface word.

21. a **campaign** to save the rain forest
 (A) most important goal
 (B) planned actions
 (C) desire
 (D) end result

22. the **conscience** of the voters
 (A) knowledge of the world
 (B) concerns about nature
 (C) sense of right and wrong
 (D) lack of power

23. a **furious** biologist
 (A) active
 (B) well-educated
 (C) secretive
 (D) very angry

24. the **plot** of a novel about Brazil
 (A) author
 (B) publisher
 (C) story line
 (D) last chapter

25. an **urge** to speak
 (A) impulse
 (B) request
 (C) permission
 (D) reason

Directions. For each item below, circle the letter of the choice that means the opposite, or about the opposite, of the boldface word.

26. a **characteristic** gesture
 (A) kind
 (B) unusual
 (C) inexperienced
 (D) youthful

27. **doubtless**, action must be taken
 (A) eagerly
 (B) maybe
 (C) sadly
 (D) impatiently

28. a **juvenile** worker
 (A) elderly
 (B) poor
 (C) native
 (D) working

29. a **reduction** of species
 (A) increase
 (B) count
 (C) small number
 (D) decrease

30. **widespread** logging
 (A) environmentally safe
 (B) limited by law
 (C) restricted
 (D) widely practiced