

Post-visit teacher notes

Upper KS2 Habitats: rainforests

We hope that the teaching session at Kew assisted in developing the skills and knowledge of your pupil's and provided them with an insight into the amazing plants and world-leading plant science at Kew.

Following your visit, you can use the post-visit activity to further support your pupils' learning.

Pupils could sequence the cards describing the story of the Brazil nut tree and match the image to the description. This activity demonstrates two things: firstly, how plants and animals rely on each other and secondly, the potential impact that deforestation has on the ecosystem.



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Answer for teachers:



Brazil nut trees are found in the Amazon rainforest. They can grow up to 50 meters tall, amongst the emergent layer of the rainforest.



When the Brazil nut tree flowers, its flowers each only last for one day. The flowers are too tough to be opened by most pollinators.



Only the female Euglossa Orchid bee has the strength to prise open the flower. The bee drinks the nectar inside and pollinates the flower.



Once a flower has been pollinated, it takes 14 months to grow into the fruit (pod). The tree's thick branches support the pods as they grow.



A mature tree can produce around 300 pods, each one can weigh over 2kg. Once the pods are ripe they fall to the forest floor.



Each pod contains around 12 to 24 seeds (Brazil nuts). The pods are very hard to open.



The agouti is the only known animal able to open the pods. They use their strong, chisel-like teeth to open the pods and access the seeds. They eat some seeds and bury any others for future meals.



If an agouti forgets where it buried the seeds, the seeds may germinate and grow into new Brazil nut trees.





How do plants and animals in the rainforest help each other survive?

Discuss your answer with your classmates.
Try to use some of this vocabulary in your answer.

food

depend

interaction

rely

relationship

shelter

seed dispersal

survive

nutrients

pollination

oxygen

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Read the cards and work out the correct order for the story of the Brazil nut tree.



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Here is the correct order. How many did you get right?

? What living thing is the most important in this story?



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