KS5 Globalisation: rainforest
Classroom activity pack

Thank you for bringing your students to Kew.

We hope that the teaching session assisted in developing the skills and knowledge of your students and provided them with an insight into the amazing plants and plant science at Kew.

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

Pupils could answer the exam-style question on the following page, and then use the mark scheme to check their answers.
Globalisation has had a negative effect on the rainforest and the people who live there.

To what extent do you agree with this statement?

[20 marks]
Qu. 1  “Globalisation has had a negative effect on the rainforest and the people who live there.”
To what extent do you agree with this statement?

AO1 – Knowledge and understanding of globalisation. Knowledge and understanding of the impact of globalisation on the rainforest.
AO2 – Application of knowledge and understanding to analyse how globalisation has affected the rainforest and come to an evaluative conclusion as to whether they agree with the statement.

AO1
- Definition of globalisation: the process by which the world’s economies, societies and cultures are becoming more integrated due to increased ease of trade, communication, transportation and immigration.
- Rainforest is affected by globalisation as it produces many of the world’s most traded commodities.
- Students may discuss an example of a rainforest trade product that is having a large impact on the rainforest due to globalisation e.g. the banana trade industry.

AO2
- Students may agree or disagree with the statement but must justify their opinions.
- Some students may agree with the statement, based on the following negative impacts of globalisation on the rainforest:
  - Mass monoculture production has a negative environmental effect, including deforestation and species loss.
  - Overuse of agrochemicals, causing environmental pollution.
  - Increased waste from packaging.
  - Labour on plantations is often casual and involves long shifts, sometimes in unpleasant conditions, for a very low wage.
- Other negative impacts of globalisation on the rainforest:
  - More transportation through the rainforest, meaning increased greenhouse gas emissions
  - Depletion of non-renewable resources
  - Production is often outsourced to countries where environmental standards not as strict. This leads to less control of pollution of air, land, rivers and seas.
  - Spending cuts have reduced many nations’ environment-focused spending.
  - Increased travel means higher chance of introduction of invasive species.
  - Loss of cultural traditions and diversity, leading to cultural homogeny.
- Some students may disagree with the statement as there are some positive effects of globalisation on the rainforest; such as, the trade of rainforest products boosting the economy for a number of developing countries.
- Higher level answers may take into account both positive and negative impacts of globalisation. Students may consider that even though trade of rainforest goods is boosting the economy of developing countries and providing jobs for local people, only a small percentage of the profit actually goes to the people of that country.
- Students may mention Fair Trade as a positive for the local farmers in the supply chain.

Students should come to an evaluative conclusion, justified by their previous discussions.

Assessment Objectives: AO1 = 10, AO2 = 10
Total marks: 20