The Rainforest

 Rainforests are like other forests because they are filled with trees and plants. But rainforests are different in one special way. They are very wet.

 Most rainforests get a lot of rainfall. Rainforests get about 90 inches of rain each year. That’s about twice as tall as an eight year old child! Rainforests are also warm most of the time. These are the reasons rainforests have trees and plants that are colorful and healthy all year long.

 There are different types of rainforests. Tropical rainforests are sometimes called jungles. This is the most common kind of rainforest. Tropical rainforests are found near Earth’s equator, which is an imaginary line around the middle of Earth. Most tropical rainforests are found halfway between the north and the south poles.

 The world’s largest rainforest in the world is called the Amazon Rainforest. It is in South America. More than one third of all the world’s plant and animal species live in the Amazon Rainforest. There are so many plants and animals in the Amazon Rainforest that many haven’t even been named! Almost all the room in a rainforest is taken up by plants. There are even some plants that live on other plants!

 Even though rainforests are home to so many plants and animals, people have been chopping them down for years. They use the land for farms and buildings. They use the plants for wood, paper, medicines, and more. The most important thing we get from rainforests is the air that we breathe! People cannot live without the oxygen that trees and plants give them. Our rainforests are very important. We need to protect the rainforests we have in order to protect ourselves.

1. How is a rainforest different than a regular forest? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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2. Why are rainforests important to people? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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