

Comprehension

Genre

A **Nonfiction Article** in a newspaper or magazine presents facts and information.



Text Structure

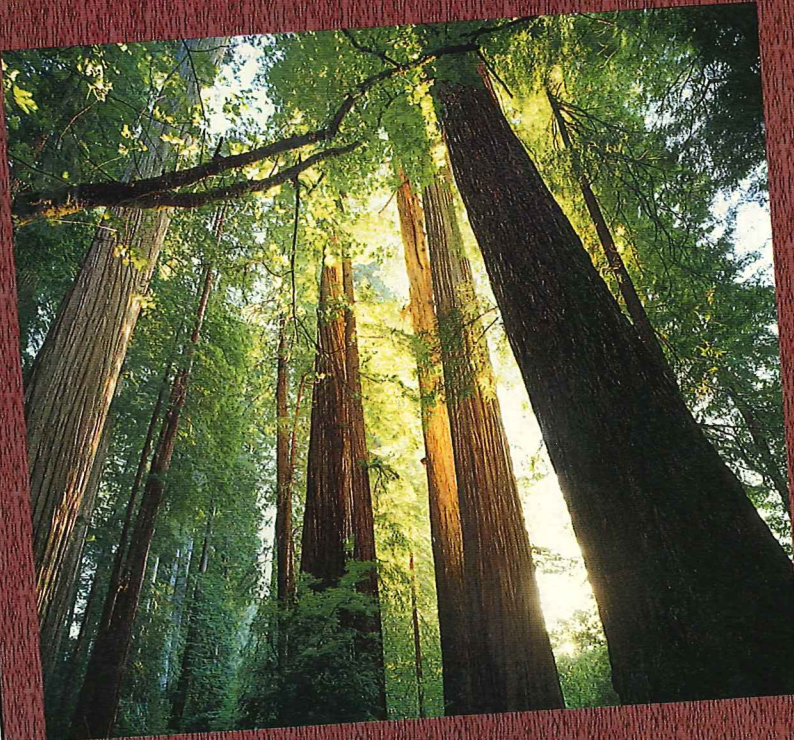
Compare and Contrast

Authors compare two things by telling how they are alike or different. They may use signal words such as *both*, *alike*, or *different*.

Forests of the WORLD

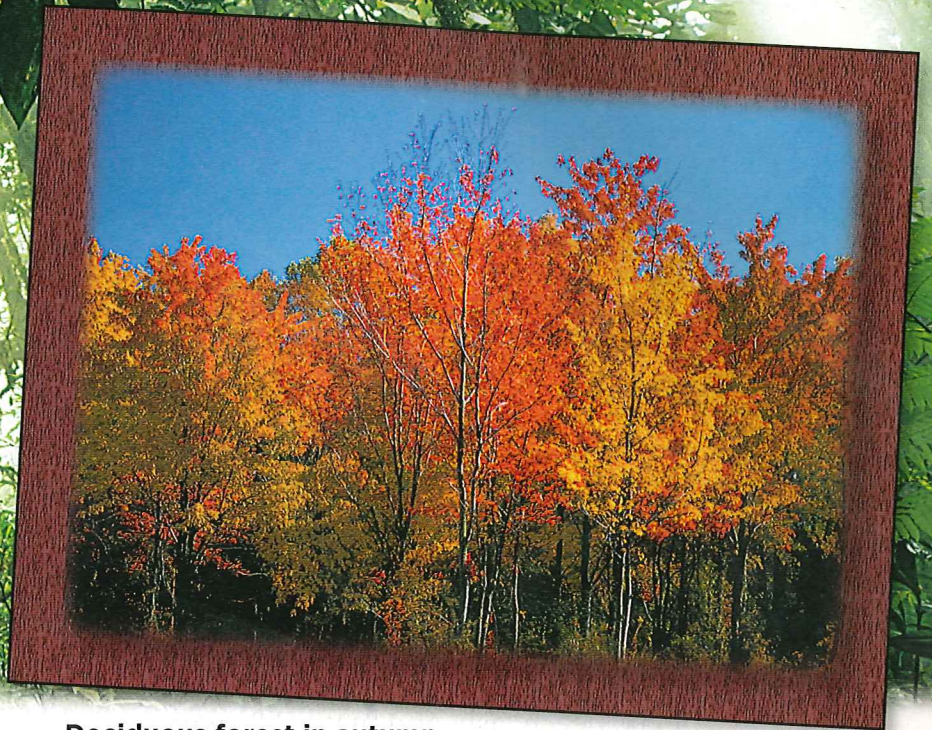
How are geography and climate related to the kinds of trees, plants, and animals that inhabit different forests around the world?

Monteverde Cloud Forest Preserve, Costa Rica



Giant redwoods in California.
Redwoods are cone-bearing trees.

Have you visited any biomes lately? A biome is a large community of plants and animals that is supported by a certain type of climate. Biomes like the Arctic tundra—where cold winds **buffet** anything that appears on the barren landscape—are treeless. Many other areas in the world are covered with different kinds of trees. Here are three types of forest biomes.



Deciduous forest in autumn

Coniferous Forest

If you are on a **quest** to find a coniferous forest biome, you will want to head south of the Arctic tundra. This type of forest stretches from Alaska southward across North America as well as across Europe and Asia.

Coniferous forests consist mainly of cone-bearing trees such as spruce, hemlock, and fir. The soil is not very rich, because there are no leaves to decompose and make the ground suitable for growth. This will **reduce** the growth of other kinds of plant life.

Some animals that thrive in this biome are ermine, moose, red fox, snowshoe rabbits, and great horned owls.

Deciduous Forest

Do you want to visit a deciduous forest in person? This biome is in the mild-temperate zone of the Northern Hemisphere. **Major** deciduous forests are found in eastern North America, Europe, and eastern Asia.

Deciduous trees lose their leaves in the fall. The natural decaying of the fallen leaves enriches the soil and allows all kinds of plant life to grow.



This Costa Rican rain forest has many layers of plant life.

Oak, beech, ash, and maple trees are typical of deciduous forests, and many types of insect and animal life abound. In the U.S., these forests are home to many animals, including deer, American gray squirrels, rabbits, raccoons, and woodpeckers.

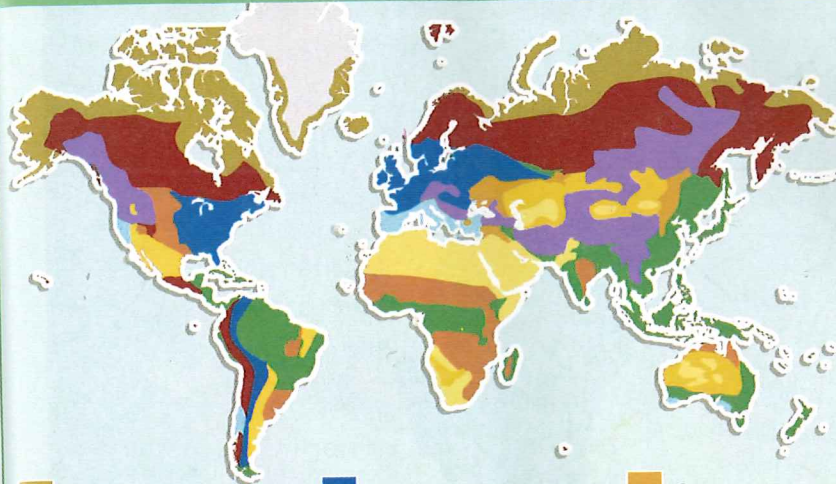
Rain Forest

Tropical rain forests are found in Asia, Africa, South America, Central America, and on many of the Pacific islands. Almost half the total area of the world's rain forests is in Brazil.

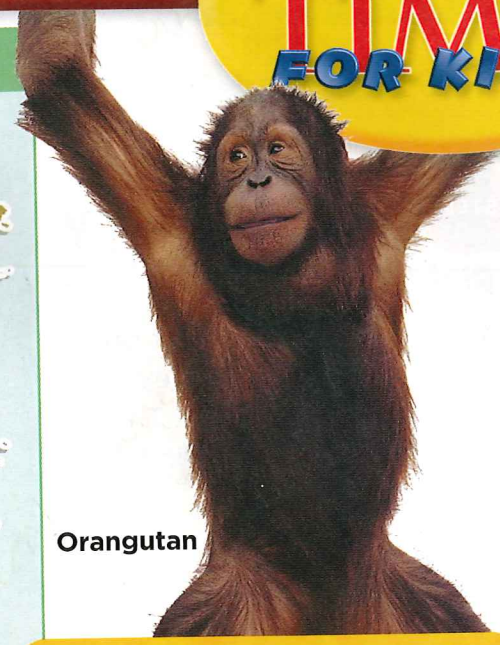
Tropical rain forests receive at least 70 inches of rain each year and have more species of plants and animals than any other biome. The thick vegetation absorbs moisture, which then evaporates and falls as rain.

A rain forest grows in three layers, like the levels in a stadium. The canopy, or tallest level, has trees between 100 and 200 feet tall. The second level, or understory, contains a mix of small trees,

Biomes of the World



Tundra	Deciduous forest	Savanna
Coniferous forest	Chaparral	Rain Forest
Grasslands	Desert	Alpine
	Desert-scrub	



Orangutan

Think and Compare

vines, and palms, as well as shrubs and ferns. The third and lowest level is the forest floor, where herbs, mosses, and fungi grow.

The combination of heat and moisture makes tropical rain forests the perfect **settings** for more than 15 million types of plants and animals. Some of the animals of the tropical rain forest are the anteater, jaguar, lemur, orangutan, macaw, sloth, and toucan. Among the many plant species are bamboo, banana trees, and rubber trees.

The floor of this rain forest is covered with ferns and mosses.



1. What three types of forest biomes does this article describe?
2. How is the soil in a coniferous forest different from the soil in a deciduous forest?
3. Think of a forest you have visited or that grows near where you live. Describe the plants and animals that live there.
4. The trees listed in the "Top 5 Most Common Trees in the U.S." on page 81 can be classified into a single category. Based on "Forests of the World," what category do you think that is?