

Glossary

Throughout your activity pack, you will notice some words in *italics*. These words may not be familiar to you and so this glossary is designed to help you to understand the different terms and phrases.

Photosynthesis	The process that plants use to turn light from the sun into energy.
Decomposers	Organisms on the forest floor that convert nutrients to a form that can then be re-absorbed by the plants of the forest
Slash and Burn	One of the methods used to clear land in forests. It involved felling the trees then burning the remaining plants and shrubs. This process leaves land barren and once gone, the rainforest that was there before cannot be replaced
Cash Crops	Crops which have a high cash value. Bananas, coffee and palm oil are a few examples
Ecosystem	An ecosystem is a community of species who depend on each other for survival. Ecosystems are generally complex and fragile. The idea of an ecosystem is you cannot change one thing without ultimately affecting another.
Sustainable/Sustainability	A practice which does not exhaust the supply of something or a practice using something that can never run out. Solar power is a sustainable energy source (see also Sustainable Energy Source)
Malaria	A disease which is transmitted by mosquitoes. It kills 1-3 million people every year. 70% of those are under 5 years old
Immunity	Your immune system is the parts of your body that fights diseases. Simply speaking, the more exposure you have to illness, the more adapted your immune system becomes to that illness. If you have never been exposed to an illness and you come into contact with it, it can have a very serious affect on you. Immunity is your body's capability to fight disease.
Regenerate/Regeneration	This is the ability of a system to "grow back" after it has been damaged or destroyed.
Prehensile	Literally means to have the ability to grip and hold. Some monkeys have prehensile tails. This term also applies to the trunk of an elephant and the tongue of a giraffe.
Vocalisations	The noises which animals make to communicate.

Cross-Contamination	The transferring of bacteria or germs from living organism to another
Socialisation	The process which our monkeys go through when they begin to meet each other. This begins with short periods and builds up as they gain more confidence with each other.
Stereotypical Behaviour(s)	Repetitive behaviour developed as a result of stress or boredom. It can include pacing, head-twisting, hand clapping, rocking and more. Often seen in animals who live in captivity with not enough mental stimulation
Exploitation	The use of something in a cruel, unjust or selfish manner without thought for the consequences. Can also mean the use of something for any purpose but the context in this pack is the first definition given.
Deforestation	The clearing and felling of forests. This pack deals largely with tropical deforestation but it refers to all types of clearing and felling.
Stratosphere	A layer of the Earth's atmosphere which has warmer layers at the top and cooler layers at the bottom. Situated about 10-50km above the Earth's surface.
Ultraviolet Radiation	Rays emitted by the sun which are short in wavelength and dangerous to human health and ecosystems (see ecosystems) if not filtered by the ozone layer.
Fossil Fuels	Fossil fuels are fuels that occur naturally such as coal, natural gas and oil. Because it takes millions of years to create them, they are gradually running out as our use of them exceeds the supply.
Sustainable Energy Source	An energy source such as the sun, whose energy never runs out. Wind power is also a sustainable energy source.