

Geography Alive: Stage 3 (Years 5 & 6): Topic 2: A Diverse and Connected World

Lesson 4: Environmental Issue: Deforestation in Indonesian Borneo		
<p>Content focus:</p> <p>In this lesson, students focus on an environmental issue within the context of a country and regional context. In this instance students focus on deforestation in Indonesian Borneo. In doing so, they investigate the causes of deforestation and any strategies being used to address the problem.</p>		<p>Resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resource Sheet 1: Deforestation in Indonesian Borneo • YouTube video clip: The Problem with Palm Oil: Fight for the Forests [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LSumTLrJzdU] • YouTube video clip: Palm Oil Problem - Behind the News [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=koDWaiW9CMs] • YouTube video clip: Palm oil: how our consumer choices affect wildlife. Your shampoo, your ice cream, your margarine, your lipstick -- all contain palm oil. Demand is still growing, as are oil palm plantations... but at what price to tropical forests and the biodiversity found there? [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w-1DQwaauwE] • YouTube video clip: Palm Oil: What is Palm Oil and what's all the fuss about? [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F0yneI0dcqg] • YouTube video clip: What is Palm Oil? [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7jojJ-s5w8]
<p>Key inquiry questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the key environmental issues affecting Asian countries? • How is the global demand for palm oil linked to deforestation in Indonesian Borneo? 	<p>Outcomes:</p> <p><i>A student:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identifies and describes some of its key environmental issues affecting an Asian country • identifies and describes the impacts of plastic pollution on the marine environment • acquires and communicates geographical information using geographical tools for inquiry. 	<p>Lesson sequence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Step 1: Show students 3–4 of the YouTube videos focusing on palm oil production and its link to deforestation in South East Asia with a focus on Indonesian Borneo. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – What is palm oil and why is it such a sought-after resource? – What is the link between the growing demand for palm oil and the process of deforestation? – What are the environmental consequences of deforestation? • Step 2: Reinforce the content of the video clips with the material included in Resource Sheet 1. Questions for discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Why are poor Indonesian farmers keen to clear the forest to establish palm oil plantation? – What are peatlands? Why are they important? – What are the forests of Borneo so environmentally important? – • Step 3: Using the internet, students are asked to investigate the plight of the Bornean orangutan. Ask students to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Describe the habitat of the Bornean orangutan. – Outline the threats to the Bornean orangutan – What is being done to protect the Bornean orangutan • Step 4: Ask the students to outline their investigation's findings.