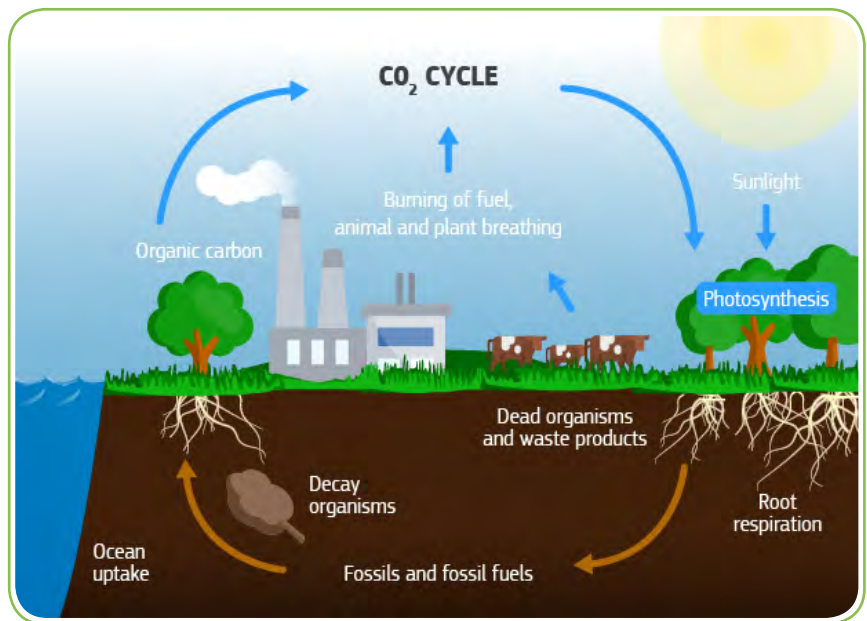


FORESTS - OUR CLIMATE PROTECTORS

1. Along with our oceans, forests and soil are the Earth's most important natural resources with regard to maintaining a balanced carbon cycle.

Take a look at the picture below. Can you figure out why forests and soils are so important?



2. Even though we know how important trees and soils are, humans still cut down a huge amount of trees every year. This is called deforestation.

Fill in the blanks:

- | | | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|
| <u>CLIMATE CHANGE</u> | <u>RAINFALL</u> | <u>MINING</u> | <u>FARMS</u> |
| <u>GREENHOUSE GASES</u> | <u>GREECE</u> | <u>TROPICAL</u> | <u>TIMBER</u> |

- Forests can also emit _____, for example when they are cut down, decay, or when the soil underneath them is disturbed.
- Humans are cutting down the world's forests at an alarming rate: up to 80 % of _____ deforestation is done to clear land for _____, but trees are also being cut down to make products such as _____ and paper or to build roads and _____.
- As well as speeding up _____, deforestation destroys the habitats of forest animals and changes _____ patterns, causing droughts.
- An area of tropical forest the size of _____ is cut down every year.

FORESTS - OUR CLIMATE PROTECTORS

3. The EU helps tropical countries adopt more sustainable forestry practices by paying people in developing countries to preserve their forests. It does this by:

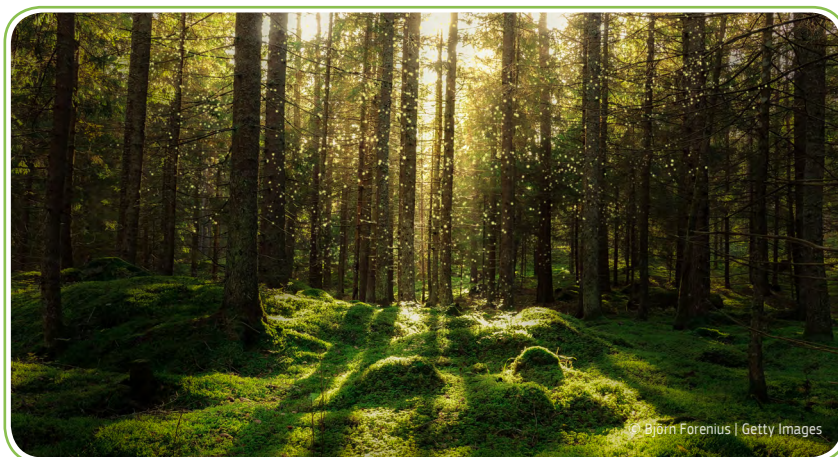
- o calculating the value of carbon prevented from entering the atmosphere by not cutting them down
- o converting this into funds for climate-smart use of forest land

This money is used for forest monitoring, improving fire-service response to forest fires, and developing the agro-forestry industry (a mix of farming and forestry). It balances conservation with protecting the interests of people who live in (and rely upon) on the forest for food, water and other resources.

As a class, discuss the following questions:

- o Why should the EU care about tropical forests in far-flung parts of the world?
- o What do people mean when they talk about the 'global commons'?
- o Are forests part of the 'global commons', like oceans are?
- o If forests are so important, why do people keep cutting them down?

Handwriting practice area consisting of ten horizontal yellow rounded rectangular lines.



Handwriting practice area consisting of five horizontal yellow rounded rectangular lines.