



The rainforests of the world are the homes of some of my most beautifully shaped and coloured feathered friends.

WHAT TO DO:

Below is a description of a rainforest. Read it through, then read it again more carefully. Make sure you build up a clear picture in your mind. Draw your own picture of a rainforest, showing the different layers of trees and plants.

Silhouetted against the sky, high above the level of the rest of the forest stand the few giant trees, 70 metres high. With their tall, slender trunks and their heavy crowns of leaves, they look like huge umbrellas.

Below them, the tops of the trees in the next layer grow very close together. Their leaves and tallest branches overlap to form a dense canopy like a green roof over the forest 30 metres high. This blanket of leaves blocks out most of the light of the sun from the layers of plant life below.

At the lowest level there is a thin layer of young trees, and strong, rope-like vines twist round the tree trunks and branches, stretching up towards the sunlight. In the twilight of the forest floor lie fallen leaves and dead trees rotting into the ground. Wherever the sunlight reaches the ground – along river banks and in spaces left by fallen trees – there springs up luxuriant undergrowth.



MORE TO DO:

A RAINFOREST BRAINSTORM: make notes about these:



- Think about the **SOUNDS** you might hear in a rainforest, e.g. dripping rain after a downpour; animal calls; the quality of the sound in such a tall-roofed environment.
- Imagine the **SCENTS** of exotic plants and of the animals.



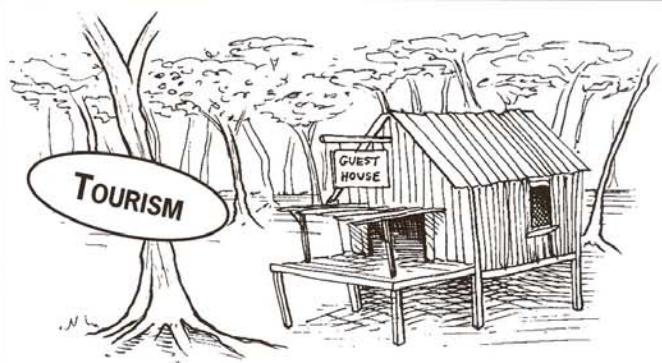
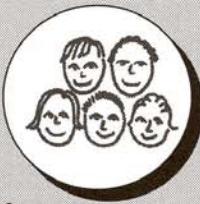
- Conjure up for yourself the **atmosphere** of the forest – how it would **feel**. Put together a series of short (four or five word) images, like a list of sounds, sights and feelings to make a word picture or poem of your own. Make your poem a contrast to the **factual** description above, which you used to help you to draw your picture.



Papua New Guinea is one of the tropical rainforest countries. It is a member of the British Commonwealth, but has been an independent country since 1975. Papua New Guinea is much richer in natural resources than our country is. Timber is one of these natural resources. Sometimes the other things PNG can produce have an effect on its rainforests as in the pictures below.

WHAT TO DO:

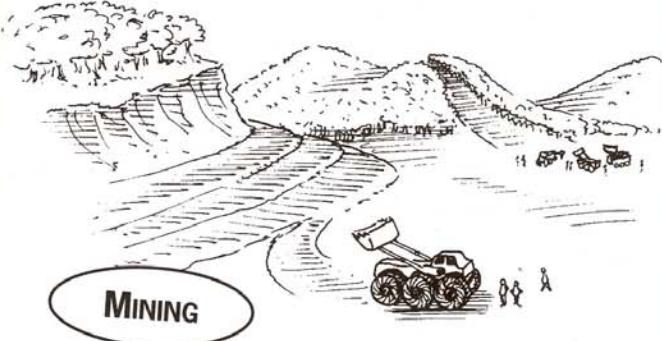
Work in a group of five, and choose one area each. You are going to prepare a speech to the PNG parliament for the 20th anniversary of PNG independence. You must say what benefits your industry brings to PNG, how your business might affect the rainforest and what steps you would take to avoid permanent damage to the forest.



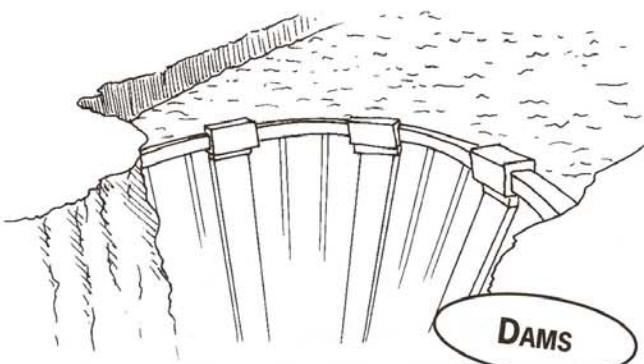
Butterfly farming, orchid growing, village guest houses, cane furniture manufacturing, carving statues etc. from wood and selling them to tourists.



Cutting down full-grown trees of certain species and floating them down river to the sawmills. Some of this timber is exported to other countries, the rest goes to local sawmills and wood workers. They use it to build homes and make furniture.



PNG has rich reserves of gold and copper, especially in highland areas. This gives employment to local people.



Dams are built across rivers to give hydro-electric power. This provides light, electricity and water for homes and factories.



Plantations are created of specific trees and shrubs, e.g. coffee, cocoa, rubber, coconut and oil palm, usually close to the villages.