

Tropical Rainforests Ecotourism

This week we'll look at eco tourism in rainforests and the human impact of rainforest degradation. As usual, read through and complete the tasks as they appear. It would be helpful to make notes as you go along.



Key Words

eco

Causing no harm to the environment (e.g. eco-friendly).

tourism

The activity of visiting places for pleasure.

ecotourism

Travelling with minimal impact on the environment.

sustainable

Being able to maintain a process or activity at a certain rate.
The resources used are not permanently depleted or damaged.

**indigenous
people**

People who come from a given place. In this case, indigenous people are people who come from the rainforest.

What Is Ecotourism?

Ecotourism is becoming increasingly popular and focuses on being sustainable, benefitting the local community and making minimal destructive impact upon the natural environment.

Conservation

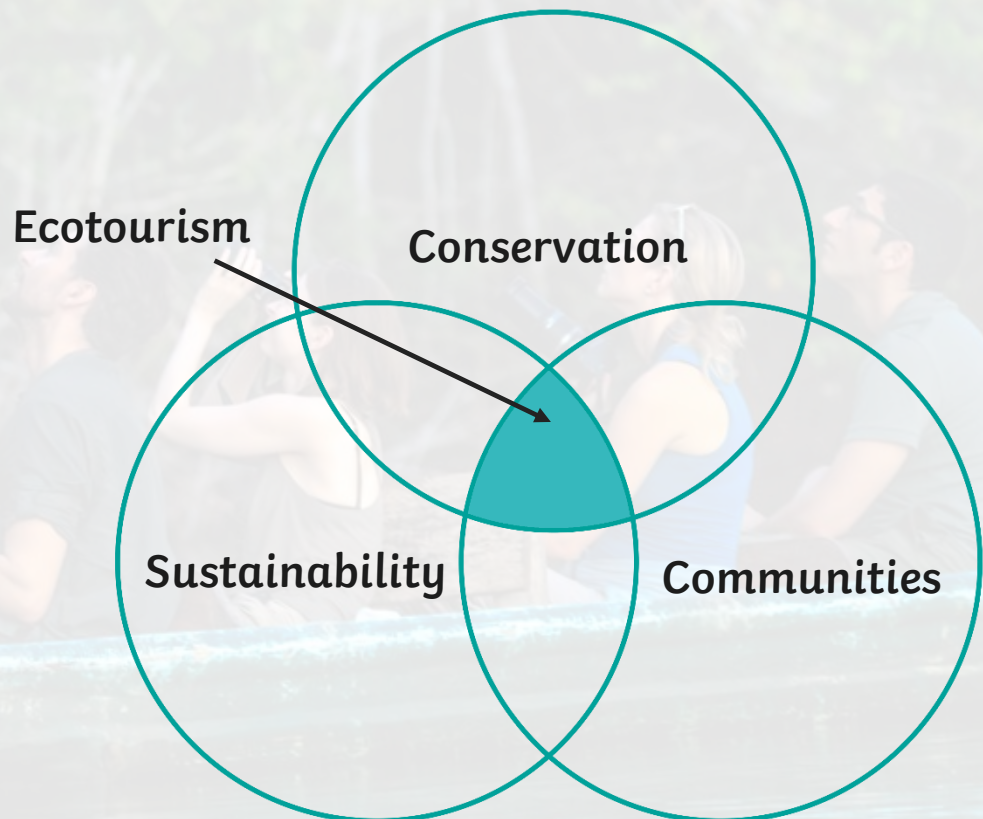
protection and careful use of natural resources

Sustainability

ensuring that tourism does not permanently damage resources

Communities

the people living in the rainforest



What Is Ecotourism?

Principles

- Minimise destructive impact on the natural environment
- Promote positive impacts on locals:
 - generate money and jobs for locals;
 - introduce new skills and knowledge to help locals;
 - encourage community work in partnership with locals.
- Respect local beliefs, cultures and customs
- Fund conservation
- Educate tourists and local people



Benefits of Ecotourism



Beautiful, varied and natural locations, such as rainforests, attract a lot of tourists. Promoting ecotourism minimises the negative impacts associated with tourism (damage to, or pollution of, the natural environment, dilution of culture, displacement of local people, development of expensive tourist resorts which 'price out' locals).

What do you think some of the benefits of ecotourism could be?

Task one: create a mind map with all of your ideas.



Benefits of Ecotourism



Add to your diagram as we discuss some ideas!

- Investment in local structural features, such as roads, water and power services.
- Investment in education, health and conservation in local areas.
- Creation of local jobs.
- Raising awareness of the importance of protecting natural resources.
- Acceptance of tourism. This can reduce problems such as crime and hostility (created when poor local people see rich tourists damaging and exploiting their resources with little consideration for them).



Negative Impacts of Ecotourism



What do you think some of the negative impacts of ecotourism could be?

Task two: create a mind map with all of your ideas.



Negative Impacts of Ecotourism



Add to your diagram as we discuss some ideas!

- There is a risk that, although local people appear to benefit, it is actually the big companies or travel industries that make most money.
- Jobs given to local people can be low skilled and low paid with few prospects for promotion.
- Tourists may insult local people by disrespecting cultures or asking what they consider to be intrusive questions about religion or spiritual activities.
- Development of access routes – roads and trails – damages the natural environment.
- Local wildlife can have their natural hunting grounds and patterns disturbed. Some species even become dependent on being fed by tourists.



Negative Impacts of Ecotourism

Renewable energy supplies are installed where possible.

Tourist wells and rainwater harvesting systems are put in place.

All building materials are sourced locally.

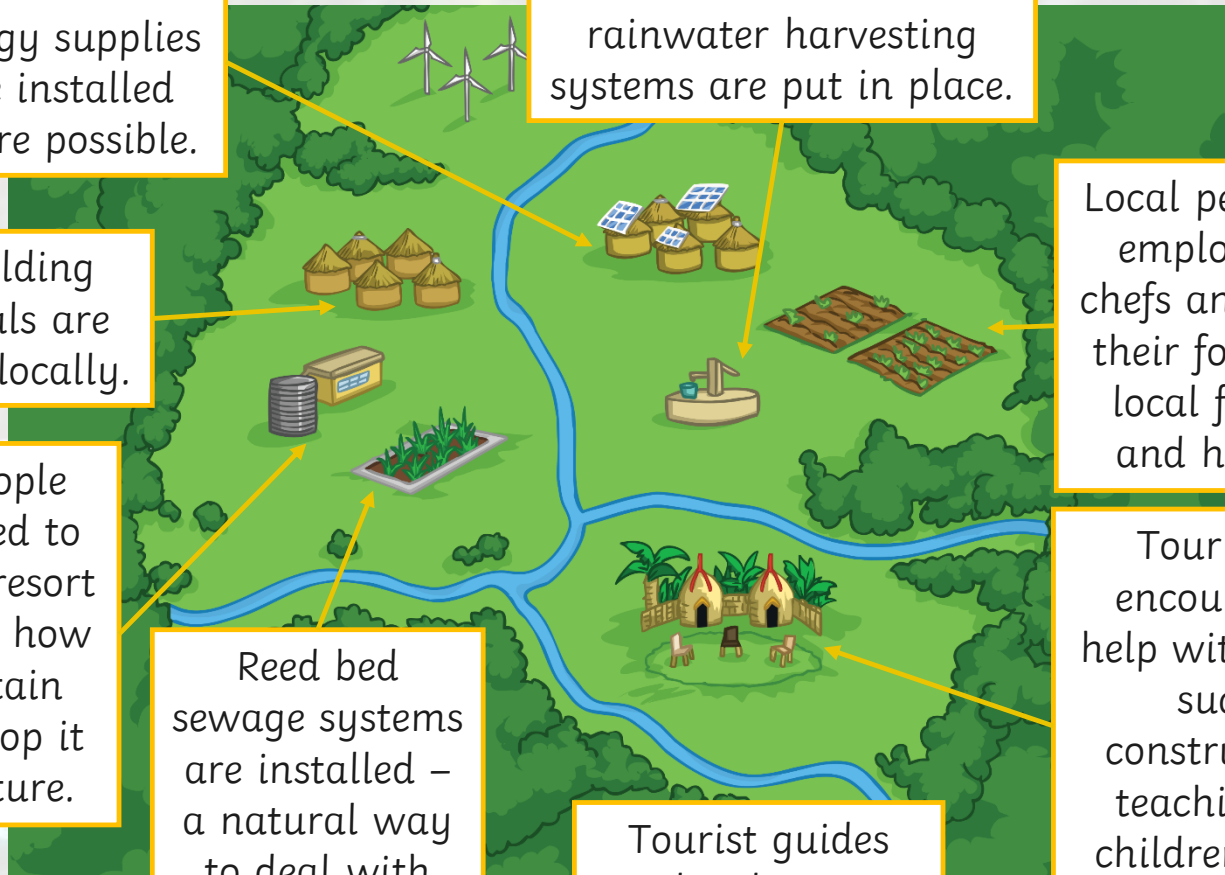
Local people are employed as chefs and source their food from local farmers and hunters.

Local people are trained to build the resort and know how to maintain and develop it in the future.

Reed bed sewage systems are installed – a natural way to deal with sewage waste.

Tourist guides are local experts.

Tourists are encouraged to help with projects such as construction or teaching local children. Known as 'voluntourism'.



Design Your Own Ecotourism Resort



1. Draw a map of your resort showing all of the features you would like to include. Don't forget that you will need paths or a way of moving around. Think about what activities you will offer tourists at your resort. Will there be a river nearby? Will there be a school under construction for them to help with?
2. Add labels around your map to explain the different features.
3. Give your resort a name!
4. Write a traveller's review for your resort. You must include:
 - a description of your resort;
 - a list of things to do at your resort;
 - an explanation of how your resort is sustainable with at least three specific examples.
5. Upload your ecotourism resort to Seesaw!

This will be your final lesson of Geography at Glendale Middle School! Over the summer break make sure you watch the news and keep up to date with global issues. As you move into high school make sure you represent our school well remembering everything you have been taught here.

Good luck! I hope you continue to enjoy learning about Geography and all the world around you.

