



# decomposers

Organisms which break down dead organic matter.

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# deforestation

The process of clearing an area of trees and other vegetation.

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# epiphytes

Sometimes called air plants; do not need soil for their roots; get moisture and food from the air.

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# extinct

No longer existing in the living state.

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# environment

The surrounding conditions that influence nature.

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# pollute

To contaminate with man-made waste.

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# vegetation

Plant-like cover of an area.

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# ecology

A branch of science concerned with the relationship of organisms and their environment.

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# habitat

An area that provides enough food, water, shelter, and space for an organism to survive and reproduce .

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# food web

A linked series of food chains.

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# exploitation

Using something for your own profit or advantage.

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# emergent

The uppermost layer of a rainforest, consists of the tops of the tallest trees.

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# forest floor

The bottom layer of the rain forest made up of tree roots, soil, ferns, shrubs, and decaying matter.

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# tropical rainforest

Large areas of land covered with trees and undergrowth located in the hot and humid zone between the tropics of Cancer and Capricorn.

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# understorey

Second layer of the rainforest of trees and shrubs.

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# botanist

A person who studies plant life.

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# preservation

To restrict an area for the protection of natural resources.

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# food chain

A series of living things that depend on each other for energy.

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# canopy

The layer of the rainforest made up of the tops of trees.

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# parasite

A person or organism living in or on another organism.

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# understory

**Second layer of the rainforest of trees and shrubs.**