

## A Friend of the Rain Forest

It's hard to coax most individuals into taking an interest in rain forests. First of all, they seem so distant from most people. Second, they appear dark and dangerous. They are filled with snakes and poisonous plants. Dreadful, oversized insects are encountered everywhere. However, Jeff Corwin is different from most people. He has been concerned about the rain forests since he was a child.

Rain forests produce much of the air you are breathing right now. Jeff learned this fact in grade school. Since then, he has had one major goal: to spread the word about the significance of rain forests. In particular, he is most interested in the many unique animals that live there.

Why are these animals important? Many of the animals there cannot live anywhere else. In fact, these forests are home to half of the animal groups in the world. The animals are necessary for the health of the forest, as each one plays a role in keeping the rain forest in bloom. If even one died out, it could have a drastic effect on the others. All the other plants and animals living with it could suffer.

Jeff wants to help people develop an understanding of this valuable information. He has started clubs for young people. The clubs teach ways to help protect the rain forests. Jeff believes education is the best way to preserve this precious resource. When people learn about rain forests, they will want to help save them.

### 4<sup>th</sup> Grade—Opinion

Some people believe rain forests should be protected while others feel we should use the various resources found in the rain forest to our benefit. In your opinion, what is the best choice regarding rain forests? Write an essay that clearly states your opinion. Be sure to include reasons and details from the story to support your opinion.

### 4<sup>th</sup> Grade—Informative/Explanatory

In this passage, Jeff Corwin explains the reasons why rain forest animals should be protected. Write an essay that explains the 'drastic effects' a species dying out would have on another rain forest animal. Be sure to include details to explain your answer.

**4<sup>th</sup> Grade—Narrative**

In “A Friend to the Rain Forest”, Jeff Corwin starts a club to teach members ways to protect the rain forest. Think about a time you joined a club, team, or group. Write a story about why you joined. Be sure to include details in your story.