



# Discovery Worksheets

## Deforestation

Since European settlement 40 per cent of Australia's forests have been cleared, and a further 40 per cent have been affected by logging. Only 25 per cent of the original 69 million hectares remain relatively unaffected.

- Use page 14 of the *Atlas of Discovery* to complete the two 'before and after' diagrams on page 2 of this worksheet showing the impact of deforestation.
  - On the forested hillside diagram, mark in the following: trees protect soil from heavy rain, cultivated land, watertable, low run-off, steady river flow.
  - On the after deforestation diagram, mark in the following: roads destabilise hillsides, watertable rises, erosion, gullies, increased run-off, wind removes topsoil, silt blocks river.
- Use your completed diagrams to fill in the blanks.
  - Rainfall on forested hillsides is absorbed by the ..... or held in the ..... .
  - On deforested hills, the run-off is ..... and ..... form. Unprotected ..... is washed into the rivers.
  - Look at the map of Australia's deforestation on page 60 of the *Atlas of Discovery*. Describe which areas of Australia have been worst hit.

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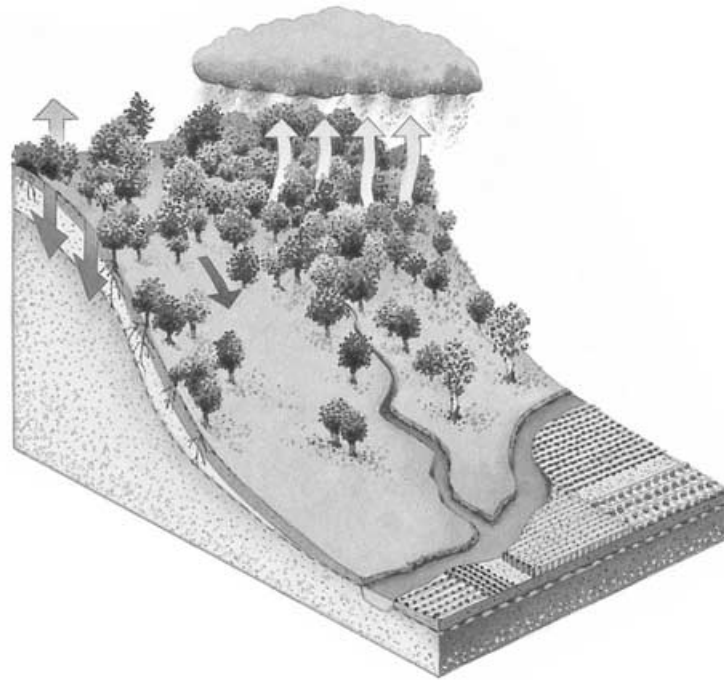
- Study page 17 of the *Atlas of Discovery* to answer the following:
  - How much rainforest is cleared annually?  
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  - What is the main cause of rainforest destruction?  
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  - Why does the establishment of logging roads cause problems in the rainforests?  
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*Atlas of Discovery*, pp. 14, 17, 60



**Forested hillside**



**Hillside after deforestation**

