

# Rainforest Calling

**9:50 a.m.**

I wonder if the person who gave the rainforest its name had ever actually been there. Surely, if they had, they'd have called it the 'plant forest' instead. Mrs Curtis, my teacher, told us that more than two thirds of the world's plant species live in rainforest environments. That's more than 80,000 different plants!

There's no way that I'm telling my Grandma Wilkins that! She'd be on the first plane to Brazil with her lucky gardening gloves because she really loves plants. Do you know, she once told me that she might love plants even more than she loves my mum! Don't worry, I haven't told my mum that.

That's one of the reasons why I volunteered for this project – so that I could tell my grandma about all the plants. Mrs Curtis wanted one of us to spend a whole week looking at some webcams in the Amazonian rainforest.

I put my hand straight up. My best friend, Millie, said that the last time she'd seen anything move as fast as my arm was when someone told her daft brother that the bank was giving away free money. Who wouldn't volunteer to spend the whole week looking at the Amazon? I think that I'd be really good at spotting all the different plants and animals.

As soon as Mrs Curtis looked at me, I knew that I hadn't been picked. She had the same expression on her face that she uses to tell us that we've got a maths question wrong as she said, "Maybe next time, Daisy." Jack Walters got picked instead, but he changed his mind when he found out that we're only allowed to look at the webcams during our breaks and at lunchtime. He said that there was no way that he was going to miss playing football in the playground. So Mrs Curtis ended up choosing me anyway! I don't mind having to do normal lessons I got nine out of ten on my spellings last week. Still can't spell rhinosoraus, though.



Mrs Curtis said that I have to write a journal entry to tell the rest of the class what I've seen on the webcams. I haven't written a journal before. The only things I write at home are lists of my favourite songs and the things I want for Christmas, but Mrs Curtis said not to worry and to just write as I like to speak. I think that should make it easier!

A 'green conversation' charity set the webcams up a few years ago (I'm not actually sure what a green conversation is, or a red or yellow or pink conversation either) and when Mrs Curtis logged on with her laptop, she showed me that we can move the webcams with the arrows on the keyboard. If I want to move left or right, up or down, I just press the arrows. I can even move from camera to camera so that I can explore each layer of the rainforest! Mrs Curtis also said that the Amazon rainforest is over 5,000 miles away from our school, yet I can still move the lens in any direction I want. Sometimes, technology is amazing!

I'd love to spend all my time looking for the monkeys, or even a Bigfoot! My dad says that scientists claim there are still over five million animal species waiting to be discovered in the world, and most of those probably live in the rainforest. He wants me to keep my eyes peeled for a Bigfoot because he says, "Daisy, that'll be like winning the lottery!"

Anyway, my dad thinks that he knows lots about the rainforest. I think that he might have read the same books as Mrs Curtis because they both said that lots of what we all take for granted comes from the rainforest. Those beans that they use to make chocolate come from there, and pineapples, too, plus the ginger that goes into yummy biscuits... even rubber for the soles of my trainers.

Millie says that her uncle has an important job at the city museum and he reckons that more than twenty-five percent (that's a quarter) of all medicines use plants from the rainforest. So if you stay up too late and have a headache, or get an iffy tummy after you've eaten one of your dad's home-made curries, the medicine that you are given could be made from rainforest plants. How amazing is that?



What I'd really like to find, though, is a new kind of flower - maybe one of those beautiful orchids. When you find something new like that, those clever people you see on the documentary channels sometimes let you name them. I'd call mine the Wilkins orchid, after Grandma Wilkins. That would make her feel very important, and she tells me that she's always wanted to be a VIP!

# Questions

1. What is the meaning of the word 'volunteered'?

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2. Draw lines to match these figures with the correct information.

80,000

5000

25

9

Percentage of all medicines that we use, which come from the rainforest.

Number of spellings that Daisy got correct on her test.

Distance in miles from school to the Amazon rainforest.

Number of different plant species in the rainforest.

3. Complete the table by showing whether each statement is a fact or an opinion.

	Fact	Opinion
Daisy volunteered to take part in the project.		
Watching the rainforest would be exciting.		
The flowers in the rainforest are beautiful.		
A charity set up the webcams.		

4. How do you think Daisy feels about being chosen to take part in the project? Give evidence for your answer.

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5. What kind of relationship do you think Daisy has with her grandma? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

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6. Find and copy three types of food or ingredients that come from the rainforest and are mentioned in the text.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

7. Find and copy a phrase which means that we fail to appreciate something because we're so familiar with it.

\_\_\_\_\_

8. What type of flower does Daisy hope to find in the rainforest and what name would she give it?

\_\_\_\_\_

9. Which of these does Daisy mean with the abbreviation VIP?

Very Interesting Project

Very Important Person

Vegetation In Places

Vanishing In Power

10. Summarise the text in 30 words or fewer.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

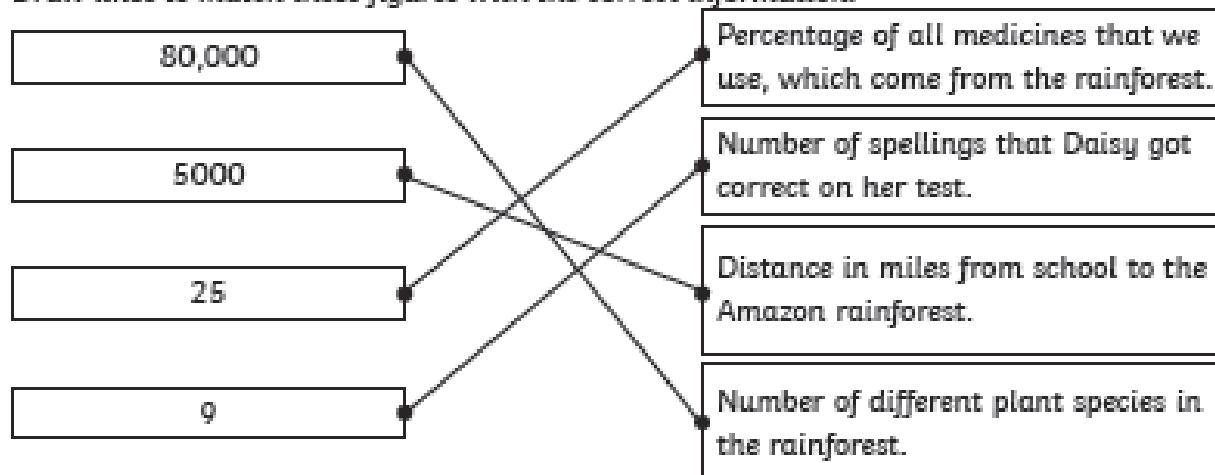
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# Answers

1. What is the meaning of the word 'volunteered'?

**offered freely and willingly/was not told to do it/put herself forward**

2. Draw lines to match these figures with the correct information.



3. Complete the table by showing whether each statement is a fact or an opinion.

	Fact	Opinion
Daisy volunteered to take part in the project.	✓	
Watching the rainforest would be exciting.		✓
The flowers in the rainforest are beautiful.		✓
A charity set up the webcams.	✓	

4. How do you think Daisy feels about being chosen to take part in the project? Give evidence for your answer.

**Accept a response that explains that Daisy is happy/pleased/delighted to be chosen because she volunteered/she really wanted to take part. Accept evidence to show Daisy's reasons or enthusiasm, e.g. she could tell her grandma about the plants/she could look for a new kind of flower. Also accept answers indicating Daisy is relieved as she was not picked first/annoyed because Jack was picked first.**

5. What kind of relationship do you think Daisy has with her grandma? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

**Accept an answer that shows Daisy's relationship with her grandma is good/close/**

friendly. Accept evidence, such as: she wants to name a flower after her/she thinks of her grandma instantly/she talks a lot about her grandma.

Do not accept answers which just state things that her grandma likes, such as gardening or plants, without reference to Daisy's bond with her grandma.

6. Find and copy three types of food or ingredients that come from the rainforest and are mentioned in the text.

Accept any three from: (cocoa) beans (to make chocolate), pineapples and ginger (for biscuits). Do not accept reference to home-made curry without stating the ingredients above.

7. Find and copy a phrase which means that we fail to appreciate something because we're so familiar with it.

'take for granted'

8. What type of flower does Daisy hope to find in the rainforest and what name would she give it?

An orchid that would be called the Wilkins orchid.

9. Which of these does Daisy mean with the abbreviation VIP?

Very Interesting Project

Very Important Person

Vegetation In Places

Vanishing In Power

10. Summarise the text in 30 words or fewer.

Accept any summary of 30 words or fewer. For example, Daisy has volunteered to spend her free time watching rainforest webcams and will make a journal to tell her class what she sees. Jack Walters didn't want to do it.