

WATCH IT!

INSIDE THE MANGROVE FOREST

INSTRUCTIONS: Watch *Inside the Mangrove Forest* YouTube video (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cwTZhyA57mA>) and answer the following questions.

1. What are mangroves and where are they found?

2. How does the daily rhythm of the tides affect red mangroves, which live closest to shore?

3. Mangroves have adapted to harsh conditions that would kill ordinary plants within a few hours. List the harsh conditions.

4. What types of organisms live in a mangrove forest?

5. What percentage of tropical fish are born in the sanctuary of the mangroves?

6. How do coral reefs and other nearby ecosystems depend on mangroves?

7. How much of the world's mangroves have been lost in the last 50 years?

8. Why have humans cleared the mangrove forests?

9. Why is it not too late for mangroves, one of the most productive ecosystems on the planet?

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1. What are mangroves and where are they found?

Mangroves are trees and shrubs that cluster along coastlines, including bays, lagoons, and inlets.

They are found living in or adjacent to the intertidal zone.

2. How does the daily rhythm of the tides affect red mangroves, which live closest to shore?

The tide exposes their roots.

3. Mangroves have adapted to harsh conditions that would kill ordinary plants within a few hours. List the harsh conditions.

Waves and salty water

4. What types of organisms live in a mangrove forest?

An extraordinary range of creatures live in the mangrove forest, including raccoons, crabs, fish, reptiles, and birds. Some are full time residents and some come to spawn.

5. What percentage of tropical fish are born in the sanctuary of the mangroves?

75% of all tropical fish are born in mangroves.

6. How do coral reefs and other nearby ecosystems depend on mangroves?

Mangroves filter nutrients and toxins out of the water, improving water quality. Their roots provide protection against extreme weather by reducing damage from floods and erosion.

7. How much of the world's mangroves have been lost in the last 50 years?

More than a third of the world's mangroves have been lost.

8. Why have humans cleared the mangrove forests?

They have been cleared for coastal development, aquaculture, and lumber.

9. Why is it not too late for mangroves, one of the most productive ecosystems on the planet?

We can still save the remaining mangrove forests and reclaim land for more.



INSIDE THE MANGROVE FOREST TRANSCRIPT:

Imagine a coastline in the tropics or subtropics. What comes to mind is a coral reef and probably a sandy beach.

But nearby, there's another ecosystem that's often overlooked, yet may be even more important to the health of the whole area. It's called a mangrove forest.

Mangroves are trees and shrubs that cluster along coastlines, including bays, lagoons, and inlets.

Living in or adjacent to the intertidal zone, they straddle two worlds.

Here, the daily rhythm of the tides sets the pace.

This ritual exposes the intricate roots of the red mangroves, which live closest to shore. It's easy to see why they've earned the nickname "walking trees."

The harsh conditions of the waves and salty water would kill most ordinary plants in a few hours. Yet the mangroves not only adapt, they create a sanctuary.

An extraordinary range of creatures live in a mangrove forest some stay here full time. Others come to spawn. Three quarters of all tropical fish are born here.

Beautiful and delicate organisms seek refuge.

Countless reptiles and birds call these forests home.

Other ecosystems nearby, like coral reefs, also depend on mangroves. They filter nutrients and toxins out of the water, improving water quality.

Their dense, intertwining roots also provide protection and shelter during extreme weather.

When storms, hurricanes, and tsunamis strike, it's mangrove forests that help reduce flooding and coastal erosion. Nothing made by man does it better.

We've had to learn this lesson the hard way because in the last 50 years, the world has lost more than a third of its mangrove forests.

We've cleared them for coastal development, aquaculture, and lumber.

Tragically, we've underestimated the value of this quiet, unflashy forest that turned out to be one of the most productive ecosystems on the planet.

But it's not too late. We can still save our remaining mangrove forests, and reclaim land for more. This vital ecosystem deserves our respect and so do the creatures that call it home.