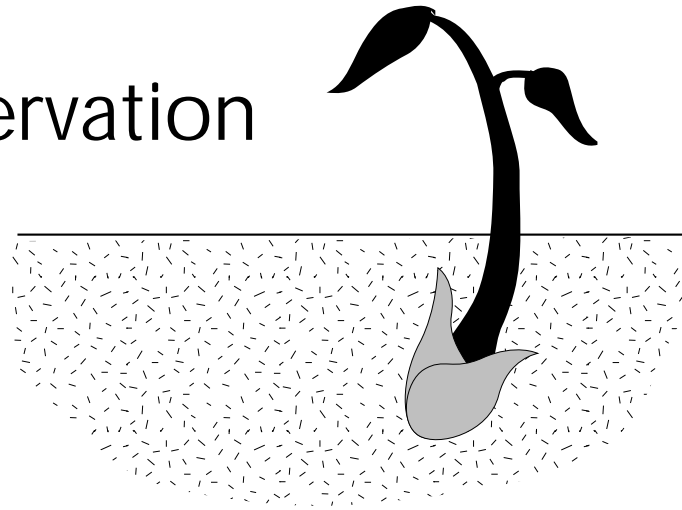


Soil, Forest, and Land Conservation

NEWSLETTER
11



Objectives

- ▶ understand the principles of forest management
- ▶ devise a forest management plan
- ▶ create a diorama

Vocabulary

reforestation
management

Background

Designation as a World Heritage Site did not eliminate local pressures on the Australian rainforest. Struggles continue over how to manage the multi-use forests. Restoration of degraded areas which were cleared for farming may ease the problem, particularly in creating wildlife corridors to reduce fragmentation and extinction effects.

To investigate the dynamics of reforestation, SFS students will develop and implement a plan to convert a stretch of farmland between two protected rainforest areas into a reforested habitat corridor. This will involve designing and assessing specific reforestation and management strategies.

Materials

plaster of paris
tempera paint and paintbrushes

pipe cleaners
craft sticks

Activity

1. Have students discuss the demands on the rainforest from agricultural, ranching, mining, logging, and recreational interests. Create a concept map on chart paper.
2. Have students work in groups. Each student will represent one of the following: forest manager, commercial forester, wildlife biologist, recreation planner, farmer, rancher, or miner.
3. Explain to students that their task is to devise a management plan for the rainforest that satisfies competing uses. This can mean coming up with the most efficient way to grow timber trees while doing the least harm to the forest community; providing for recreational facilities in some parts of the forest; and managing for specific types of wildlife throughout the forest.
4. Suggest that each group construct a diorama to show the location of the various sites.

Extend the Activity

Have students explain why a forest is a renewable resource and examine the role that reforestation can play in restoration, wildlife conservation, and watershed protection.