

## **Nature facts (Forests)**

### **1. Which types of forests?**

Depending on the basis of latitude, there are three main types of forests. These are as follows:

#### **a) Tropical forest —**

Tropical forests are located near the equator. These are characterized by warm temperature conditions, ample rainfall, high diversity of life, and dense distribution of plants. Tropical forests are distributed between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn.

#### **b) Temperate forest –**

Temperate forests are at the midpoint of the equator. There are four different seasons in the temperate forest, which show variation in temperature conditions.

c) Boreal forest (taiga) — Boreal forests are located at high northern latitudes. Boreal forests are characterized by cold temperature conditions and coniferous (evergreen) trees that stay green throughout the year.

### **2. What is the ecological importance of forests?**

About 31% of the earth's surface is covered with forest. Most animal and plant species are found in the forest. Forests are an essential component for climate control. They inhale carbon dioxide and exhale oxygen. Forests have been a crucial component in the natural water cleaning process. Forests enhance the atmospheric moisture level and hence, ultimately, play an essential role in rainfall. They also play a role in preventing the erosion of soil.

### **3. Why are forests important for humans?**

Forests provide wood. Wood is a raw material for combustion and construction. They also provide food such as fruits, nuts, and berries. They also enhance the physical and mental health of human beings. Many of the plants that are found in forests have medicinal value.

## **References**

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