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Introductions



From left to right, Nick, Karen and Andrew are sitting in front.

Meet Nick, Karen and Andrew.

They belong to the Cedar Club. Jenny is their leader.

Every Saturday, the club members get together to **explore** outdoors. They have fun being nature detectives. Like all detectives, they keep notes about what they discover. They also make some drawings.

The **forest** near town is one place the club loves to explore. Besides huge trees, many other kinds of plants grow there. Animals from worms to **woodpeckers** live in the forest. On each visit, the club discovers something new.



MEET THE FOREST



A forest is a large area of land where many trees grow. It is an **ecosystem**, a place with living parts—plants and animals—and non-living parts, such as water, light and soil. Each of these parts affects other parts of the ecosystem. Each is important to a healthy forest.

Forests cover many areas of Canada, but they are not all alike. Some are old; others are young. Some are quite dry; others are mostly wet. Different kinds of plants and animals live in different kinds of forests.

Nature Notes

WHAT TO WATCH FOR

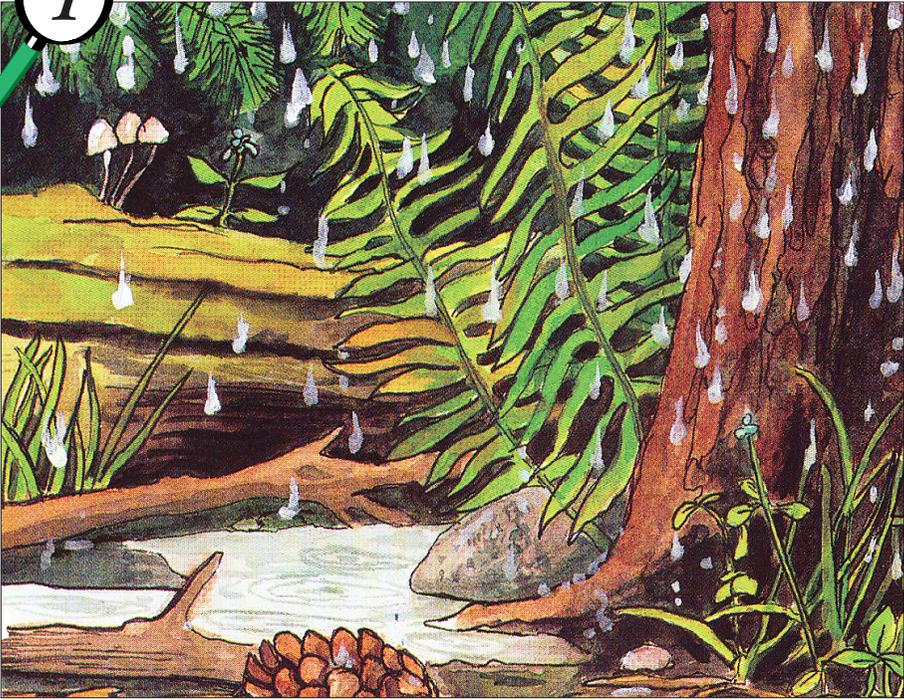
1. *What kinds of plants live in the forest?*
2. *How do plants live and grow in the forest?*
3. *What kinds of animals live in the forest?*
4. *How do animals live and find food in the forest?*
5. *What are non-living parts of a forest?*



THINGS TO CHECK LATER

1. *What forest books does the library have?*
2. *Who can tell us about the forest?*





One Saturday, it poured rain as the Cedar Club hiked to the forest. Nick and Karen ran ahead.

“Hurry,” yelled Nick to the others. “It’s dry in the forest.”

“It’s like having a roof,” said Karen, looking up. “The branches of these big trees overlap.”

“But rain still gets through,” said Jenny, as she and the rest of the club caught up. “Check around.”

The tallest trees were breaking the force of the rain, but raindrops were dripping from high branches to low ones. They were trickling down trunks. They were dropping from one plant to another. Gradually, the raindrops were reaching the **forest floor**. There, they seeped through fallen leaves and twigs into the soil.

"It's really damp here," said Andrew. He was wriggling his fingers in the ground by a huge tree.

"Good," said Jenny. "That will help the tree grow. The roots of trees and other plants take in water and **nutrients** from the ground. Their leaves—called needles on some trees—take in water, too. A tree needs about 1000 kilograms of water to grow 1 kilogram heavier."

