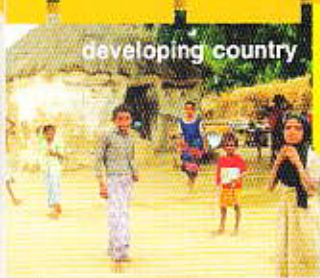


1 Deforestation

Destroying Our Forests— One Tree at a Time



Deforestation continues to be a worldwide problem, reports the International Tree Foundation.

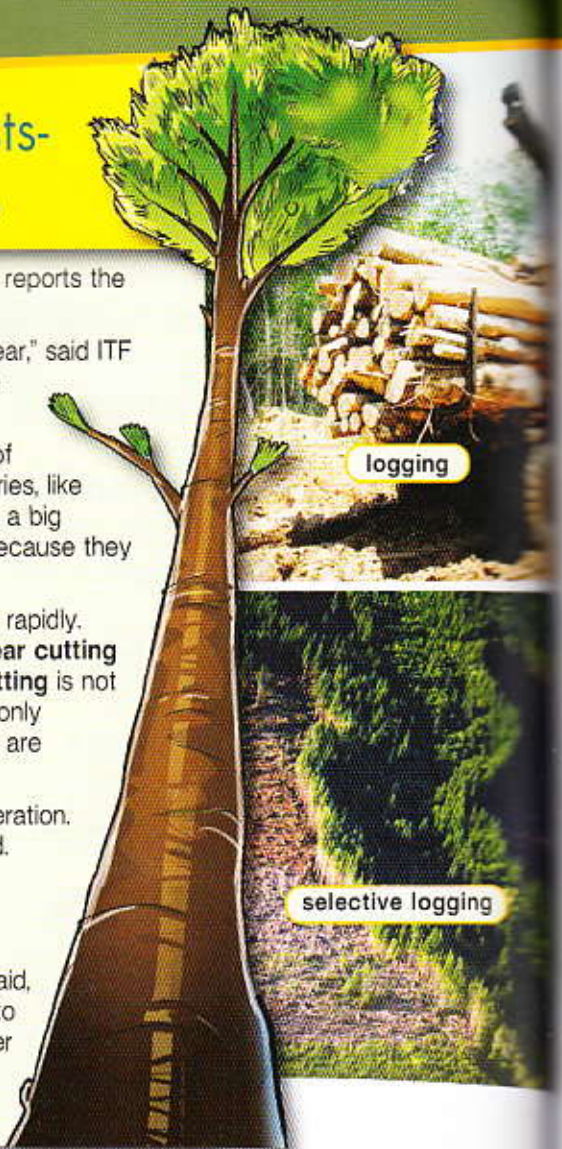
"Over 78 million acres of trees are cut down every year," said ITF representative Melissa Franks. "That's bigger than the country of Poland!"

Deforestation is worst in the **developing countries** of Latin America and Africa. However, developed countries, like the U.S. and China, are not guilt-free. "**Logging** is not a big problem in those countries," Franks said, "but that's because they get much of their wood from other places."

The world's **old-growth forests** are being destroyed rapidly. This is due to poorly managed logging practices. **Clear cutting** can wipe out a forest in just days. And **selective cutting** is not much better. "People think it's less destructive since only specific trees are cut down. However, leftover plants are harmed in the process," Franks said.

Strip cutting is the best method. It allows for regeneration. "Even **tree plantations** are preferable," Franks added. "They are less harmful, but still profitable."

The ITF says that **forest fires** are another problem. **Surface fires** generally do not destroy mature trees. However, **crown fires** destroy entire forests. Franks said, "Since global warming is getting worse, we are going to see more crown fires. Conditions are just too dry." After a forest fire has ended, it may be necessary to plant a **second-growth forest** in its place.



Get ready!

1 Before you read the passage, talk about these questions.

- 1 What type of logging targets certain trees but not others?
- 2 In what type of countries does most logging take place?

Reading

2 Read the newspaper article. Then, mark the following statements as true (T) or false (F).

- 1 Developing countries often get wood from the U.S. and China.
- 2 Selective cutting damages plants left in the ground.
- 3 Crown fires will be more frequent because of global warming.

Vocabulary

3 Write a word that is similar in meaning to the underlined part.

- 1 The trees in this area were destroyed by a fire that burnt the vegetation at the canopy.
_ _ o _ _ _ _ re
- 2 Less than 10% of the world's forests are forests that have been growing for hundreds or thousands of years.
_ _ d - r _ _ _ h _ _ _ e _ t s
- 3 This area where trees are cut down and then replanted grows and sells Douglas Firs.
_ r _ _ _ l _ n _ t _ _ _ _ _
- 4 Agriculture is often the main source of income in places that are not highly industrialized.
_ _ _ _ _ o p _ _ g c _ _ _ _ r _ _ s
- 5 Illegal cutting and selling of wood from trees is a big problem in Brazil. _ o _ _ _ n _
- 6 The process of removing many trees all at once ruins animals' natural habitats.
_ _ e _ r _ _ u _ t _ _ _