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ORANGUTAN AND CLIMATE CHANGE



Orangutans and Climate Change

Hi!
I am Tara

Tara was determined to raise awareness about global warming, and not just for pitcher plants, but also for orangutans. These giant, cute-looking animals were on the brink of extinction. The Northwest Bornean orangutan is the smallest and most threatened of the species, with only 1500 individuals remaining. The Bornean orangutan population has



decreased by 80% in the last three decades due to logging, hunting, and habitat destruction. Tara remembered an interesting fact about orangutans: they share 97% of their DNA with humans! Like gorillas in the Congo, orangutans are also gardeners and seed dispersers of the Bornean rainforests. They help the forest by providing the way for new trees, while the trees provide shelter and food to the orangutans.

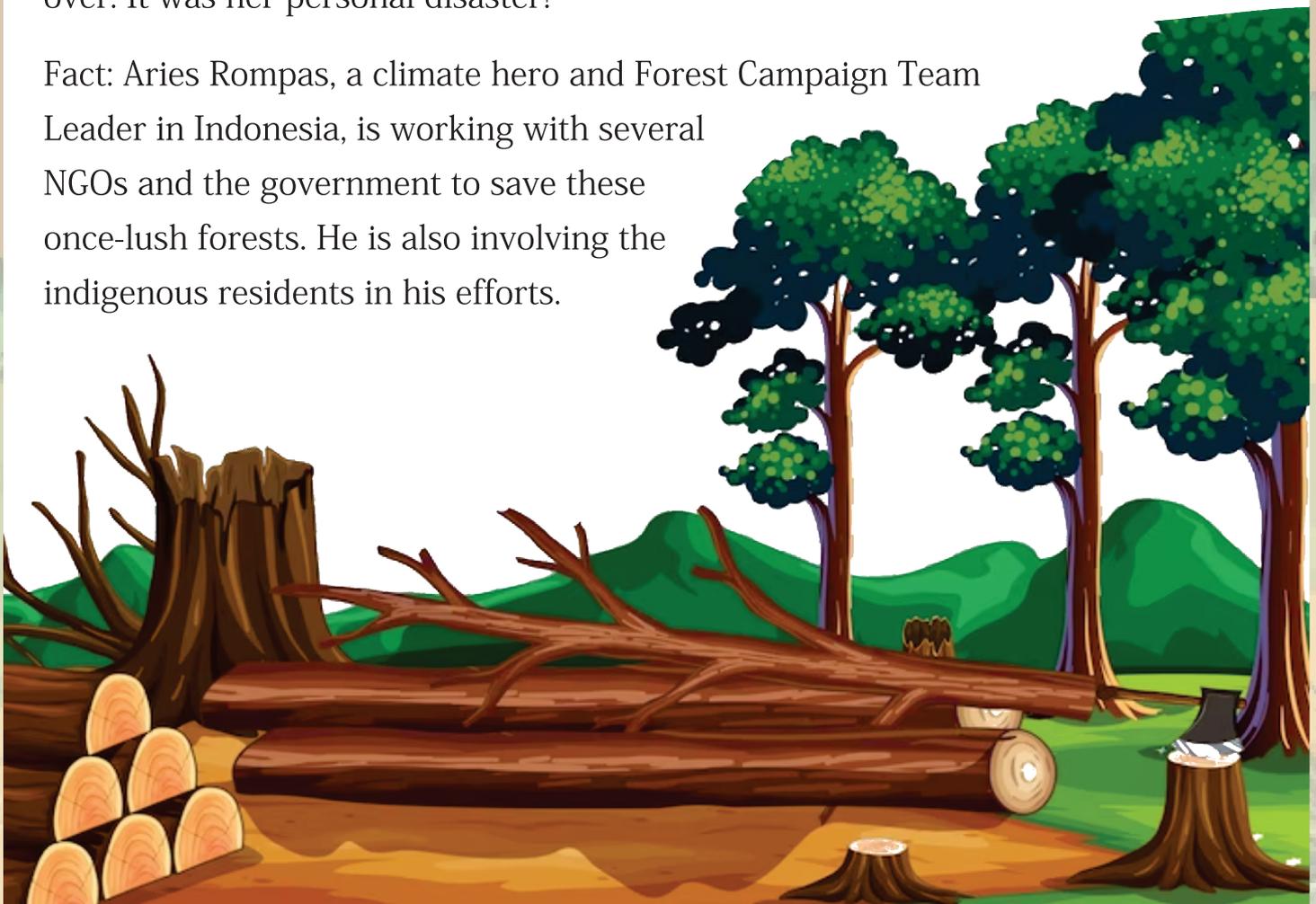


Both depend on each other for survival. However, at least 30% of Borneo's tropical forests have been destroyed over the last 40 years due to logging, mining, and plantation development, resulting in the loss of nearly 150,000 orangutans over the last 16 years. Deforestation has also led to human disasters such as severe floods and forest fires, in addition to global warming.



As Tara was thinking about the impact of deforestation, she smelled something burning. It was the milk her mother had asked her to watch, which had boiled over. It was her personal disaster!

Fact: Aries Rompas, a climate hero and Forest Campaign Team Leader in Indonesia, is working with several NGOs and the government to save these once-lush forests. He is also involving the indigenous residents in his efforts.



New Words

1. **Determined**- having made a firm decision and being resolved not to change it.
2. **Logging**- The activity or business of felling trees and cutting and preparing the timber.
3. **Deforestation**- the action of clearing a wide area of trees.

Find other new and interesting words for each other, and write their meanings in your notebooks.

Comprehension

1. What was Tara concerned about?
2. Population of which animal has decreased by 80%?
3. What are the reasons for the decrease in the population of orangutans?
4. Which animal shares 97% of its DNA with humans?
5. What has led to the destruction of forests in Borneo?
6. How has deforestation affected humans?

Take turns to make more questions like these above for each other and answer them.

Prompts Pair up

1. Deforestation Challenge

Make a simple obstacle course in pairs showing the problems orangutans face because of deforestation. Include things like jumping over "logs," crawling under "fallen trees," or going through "plantations." Take turns doing the course and talk about how destroying homes affects orangutans and other rainforest animals.

2. Draw an orangutan

On a piece of paper, draw a picture of an orangutan and then color it in using a variety of colors. Use your creativity and imagination to make the orangutan unique.

Watch the video on the Orangutan life using the QR code.



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