

Name _____



Clues in the Canopy

Directions: Read the passage carefully. Look for **context clues**: words, phrases, or examples around the bolded terms that help you guess their meaning. Write what you think each bolded word means. Explain what clues from the passage helped you figure it out.

Life in the Rainforest

The rainforest is known for its **canopy**, the thick layer of overlapping tree branches high above the ground. Beneath the canopy lies the **understory**, a dark and humid area where sunlight barely reaches. Many animals live in this layer because it provides **camouflage**, or natural hiding places, to avoid predators. Rainforests are often described as **biodiverse**, meaning they are home to an incredible variety of plants and animals. Unfortunately, human activities such as **deforestation** (the cutting down of large areas of trees) are destroying these habitats. Scientists warn that the **fragile** balance of the rainforest could collapse if too much of it disappears. Protecting these environments is considered a **global** responsibility, as they affect weather patterns and air quality around the world.

1. Canopy
2. Understory
3. Camouflage
4. Biodiverse
5. Deforestation
6. Fragile