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CLIMATE CHANGE



# BOREAL Forests

*Siberia*

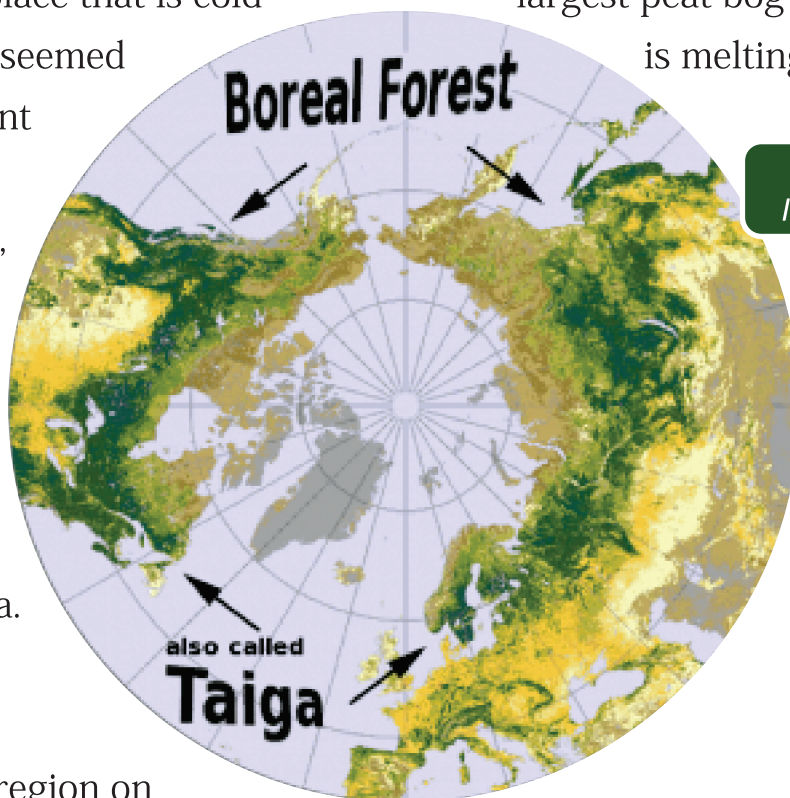


# Climate Heroes

## Boreal Forest Siberia

After disposing of her plastic waste, Tara decided to take a break with a glass of sugarcane juice. But her dreaming didn't pause. Deserts, forests, oceans... what's next? she wondered. A place that is cold and has snow seemed like an excellent place to visit. Thinking hard, she zeroed in on the boreal forests of Siberia, Russia, also known as taiga. These forests represent the largest forest region on earth, extending from Siberia in the east across Europe to North America. Despite being larger than the Amazon, they have few tree species: pine, spruce, birch, and fir. These forests control the planet's climate as their peat-lands store almost 50 percent of terrestrial carbon. This carbon is locked in peat

frozen within the permafrost. If the peat lands melted, they would release 70 billion tons of methane gas, as toxic as carbon dioxide. Already, according to scientists, the largest peat bog in western Siberia is melting.



Hi!  
I am Tara



Tara wanted to see the Siberian tiger and the bald eagle, both native to Siberia.



Siberian tigers are known to travel up to 1,000km over forest land.

However, the diminishing forest area due to logging and infrastructure development has

made the Siberian tigers the most endangered species on Earth. Now, fewer

than 600 Siberian tigers remain in the wild. They mainly prey on wild boars, which survive in this hostile climate by getting nutrition from pinecone seeds.

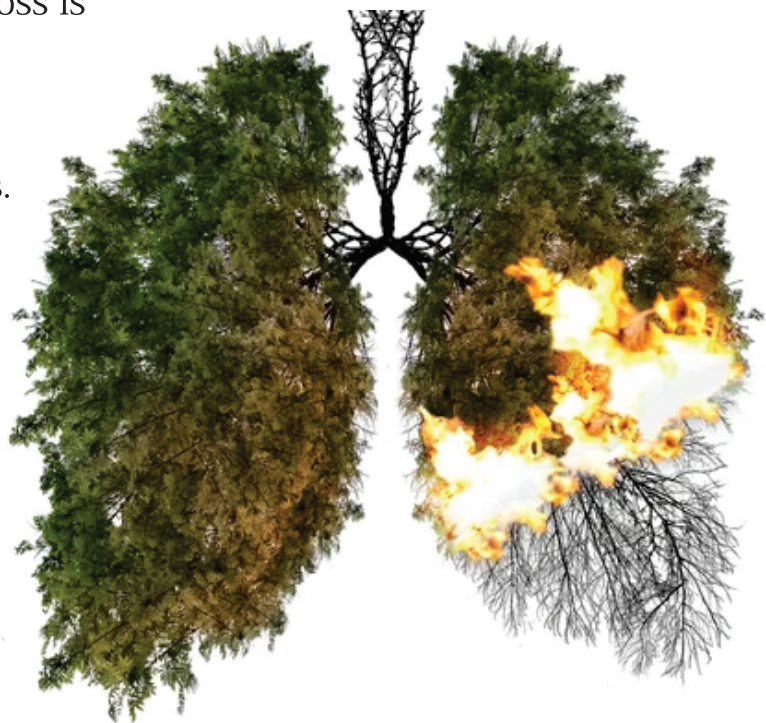
As pine trees disappear, so will the wild boars. The bald eagle would meet the same fate. A majestic bird of prey with a wingspan of about 2

meters and a lifespan of up to 100 years, the bald eagle nests in the taiga in autumn and spring to feed on salmon in the Ob River.



Alarmingly, boreal forests, often referred to as the "planet's lungs," have lost 17 percent of global tree cover. This loss is mainly due to the huge supply of timber to China, while China itself has restricted logging of its forests. Nearly 20 percent of the wood sent to China is obtained by illegal felling of trees.

Tara desperately hoped that someone would take up the cudgel to reclaim these forests and prevent further damage. As she hoped, someone is working hard...



## New Words

- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| 1. <b>Terrestrial-</b> living on land. | 2. <b>Permafrost-</b> a layer of soil that is permanently frozen. | 3. <b>Endangered-</b> at risk of extinction or disappearance from the wild |
|--|---|--|

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

## Comprehension

1. What is taiga?
2. What are the tree species found in taiga?
3. What is the main prey of Siberian tigers?
4. What is the boreal forest often referred to as?

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

## Prompts Pair up

### 1. Boreal Forest Animal Charades

**Instructions:** Take turns acting out different animals native to the boreal forest, such as Siberian tigers, bald eagles, and wild boars. The other person has to guess which animal their partner is acting out. When each animal is guessed correctly, take a moment to discuss the unique features, habitat, and challenges faced by that animal in the boreal forest.

2. Draw a picture of a Siberian tiger or a bald eagle and write a short

paragraph about why they are important animals in the taiga ecosystem.

3. Learn about the traditional culture of the indigenous people who live in the taiga, such as the Nenets, and make a craft inspired by their art or clothing.

Watch the video on the Boreal Forest using the QR code.



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