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THE DISAPPEARANCE OF **INSECTS**



The Disappearance of Insects

The headline screamed, "Climate change kills 98% of insects in Puerto Rico's rainforest." Tara grabbed the newspaper and read the article which highlighted the significant impact of climate change on the insects in Luquillo rainforest, located on the island of Puerto Rico off the coast of Florida. The researchers took samples from the forest floor and discovered that the insect population had decreased by four to eight times within



30 years, resulting in a decline in the populations of birds and lizards that feed on

these insects. The Yellow chinned Anole

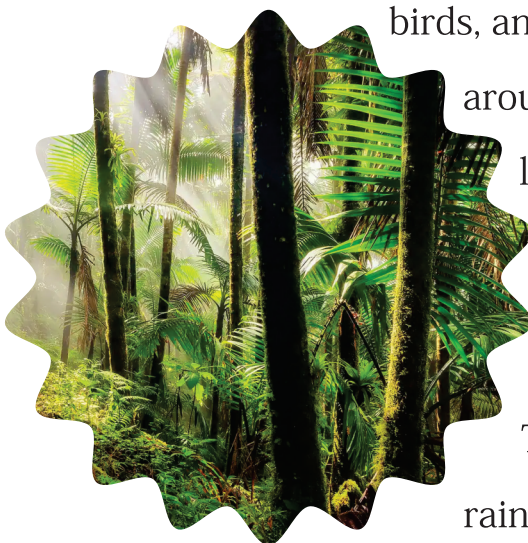


lizards have decreased by 25 percent,

and the green-colored Emerald Anole



has decreased by 91 percent. Tara felt saddened by the loss of insects,



birds, and lizards. She loved watching insects scuttle

around, listening to birds chirp, and watching

lizards crawl up trees in her garden. She now

dreamed of visiting Puerto Rico and its unique

rainforests, called El Yunque National Forest.

The article also revealed that the temperature of

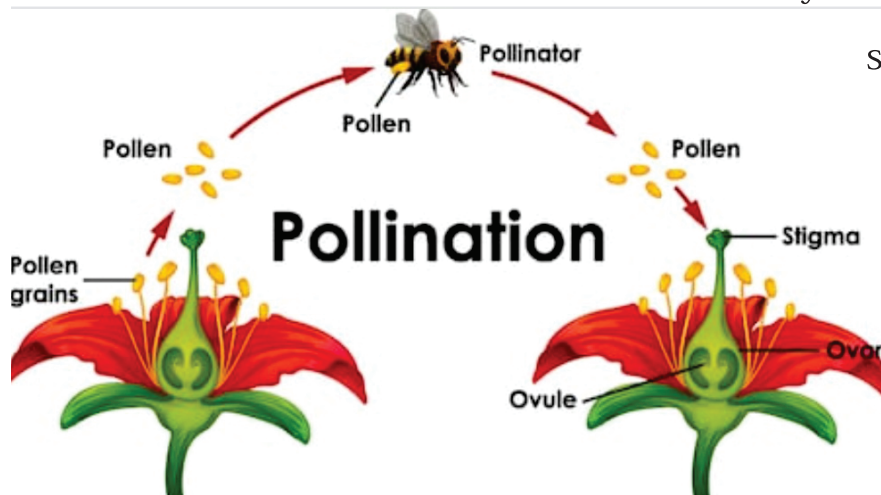
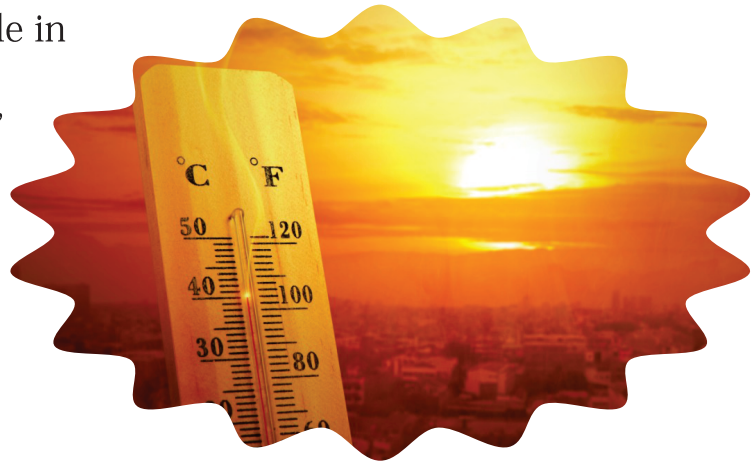
rainforests has increased by 2 degrees Celsius in

the past 30 years due to global warming. Tara was amazed to

learn that insects play a critical role in the ecosystem, such as pollination, guzzling up dead plants and animals, and serving as food for birds, insects, and lizards. They also feed on herbs and worms.

However, as temperatures continue to rise,

these insects will be unable to survive since they are cold-blooded and can only



survive within a specific temperature range.

Additionally, the increase in temperature will cause many plants and trees to die.

Tara was pleased to learn that scientists and researchers were working towards solving this problem, but she wondered if their efforts would be sufficient. She then thought about the sunny beaches of Puerto Rico, which brightened her mood. She looked forward to visiting and hearing the call of the tiny coqui frog, found only on this island, saying "KoKee."



New Words

1. **Population-** the number of living things in a particular area
2. **Specific-** a particular range or limit
3. **Decline-** a decrease in numbers or quality

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

Comprehension

1. Where is Puerto Rico situated?
2. What is Luquillo?
3. What has a yellow chin?
4. What do the insects eat?
5. What is the name of the National Forest of Puerto Rico?
6. The temperature in rainforests is increasing. True/False.

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

Prompts Pair up

1. **Make Your Own Insect Habitat:** Using a plastic container, create a mini insect habitat with soil, leaves, and twigs. Find and add different types of insects, such as ants or beetles, and observe their behavior and interactions with one another. Discuss the importance of insects in the ecosystem and how we can protect their habitats.
2. **Bee Pollination Game:** Your partner and you play a game where one

person is a bee and the other person is a flower. The bee must navigate through obstacles to reach the flower and pollinate it. Discuss and write down the importance of bees in pollinating plants and the impact of their decline on the environment.

Watch the video
on the
disappearing
Insects using the
QR code.



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