



Name: _____

Class: _____ Date: _____

Cloze Passage: Old-growth Forests

An activity of "Measuring forests from space".

The story "Measuring forests from space" (page 8-9, *What's Up* February 2024) says old growth forests — like the ones in Alaska, Canada, Russia, and elsewhere — are better at storing carbon than plantations. Complete the cloze passage below to find out more about them.

Fill in the 12 blanks with the given words below. Use each word only once.

carpeting	pristine	repopulated	haven
unaware	irreversible	thrive	swathes
gargantuan	filtration	sinks	comprise

Old growth forests are extremely important carbon **(a)** _____. These are forests left untouched and unchanged by humans, with trees that are hundreds or thousands of years old! Huge amounts of carbon dioxide are stored in the trunks of **(b)** _____ trees, which can be wider than a car and taller than high-rise flats.

They also **(c)** _____ complex eco-systems, with trees of various types and heights, and a thick layer of dead wood and fungi **(d)** _____ the soil beneath them. This mixture of plants provides a safe **(e)** _____ for many insects and animals to **(f)** _____ in, allowing for fascinating biodiversity.

Additionally, old growth forests act as a **(g)** _____ system which "sieves" rainwater, cleaning it and ensuring rivers that flow through them are **(h)** _____. Many people living in cities built near forests are **(i)** _____ of how dependent they are on these forests.

Another name for old growth forests is "primary" forests. When **(j)** _____ of old growth forest are cleared away and then **(k)** _____ with trees, these become "secondary" forests. The original ecosystem of fungi, plants, and organisms in the primary forest, developed over many centuries, is lost. The change may be **(l)** _____. We should safeguard the old growth forests which still stand today.