

SECTION 1 GEOGRAPHY

GeoActivity

Use with Central America & the Caribbean Geography & History, Section 1.3, in your textbook.

Go to Interactive Whiteboard GeoActivities at myNGconnect.com to complete this activity online.

1.3 RAIN FORESTS OF CENTRAL AMERICA

Preserve the Rain Forest

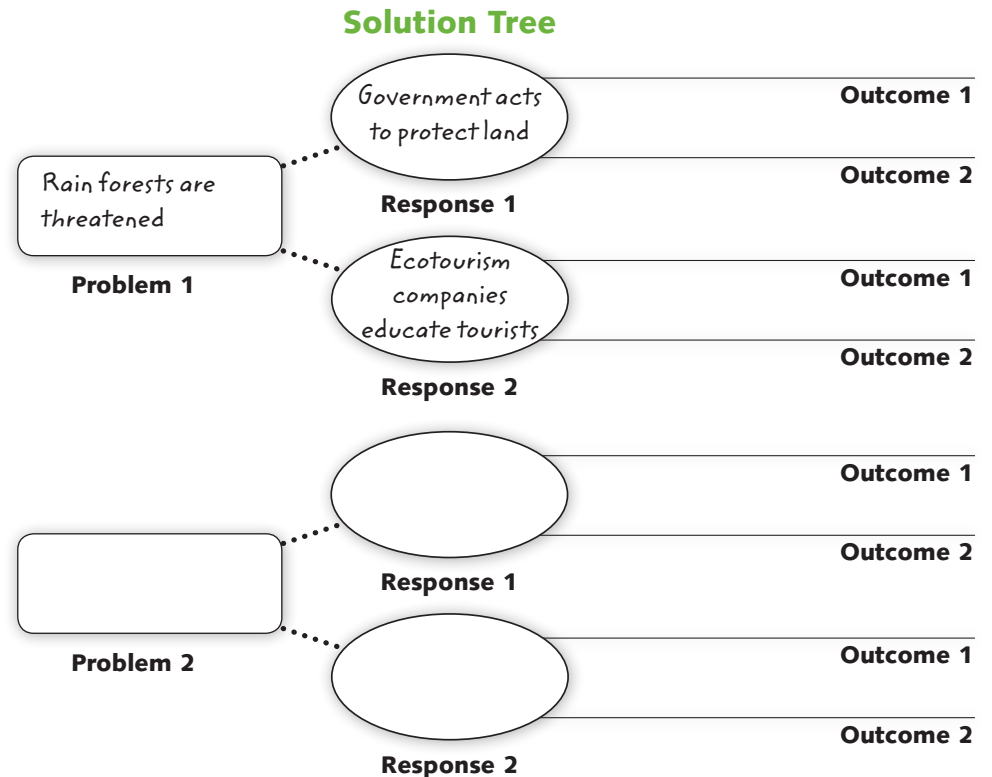
Read the passage below about problems caused by destruction of the rain forest. Then use a Solution Tree to explore possible solutions to these problems.

Ecosystems at Risk

Scientists continue to discover new types of plants and animals in Central America's rich and complex rain forests. In recent years, however, the rain forests have become threatened. Large areas have been cleared for timber or to create space for farming and raising livestock. People often burn the sections of the forest they have cut down, which releases harmful gases into the environment. As these ecosystems are destroyed, many types of plants and animals may disappear forever.

Governments and private organizations are looking for ways to protect these lands. They are encouraging different kinds of farming, such as producing shade-grown coffee, which would help preserve the rain forests. In addition, ecotourism allows visitors to experience the ecosystems, creates jobs for local people, and raises money to protect the rain forests.

- 1. Complete a Solution Tree** Write possible outcomes to responses and problems given in the passage. Each rectangle highlights a problem. Each oval shows a possible response to the problem. Work with a partner to fill in one or two possible outcomes for the responses given in Problem 1.



- 2. Turn and Talk** Share your outcomes with another set of partners. Did the outcomes solve the problem or introduce a new problem that needs a response? What are some common solutions you came up with? Share them with the class.
- 3. Create Your Own** Choose another problem presented in the passage, such as burning sections of the forest. With your partner, brainstorm responses and outcomes, and fill in the Problem 2 Solution Tree.