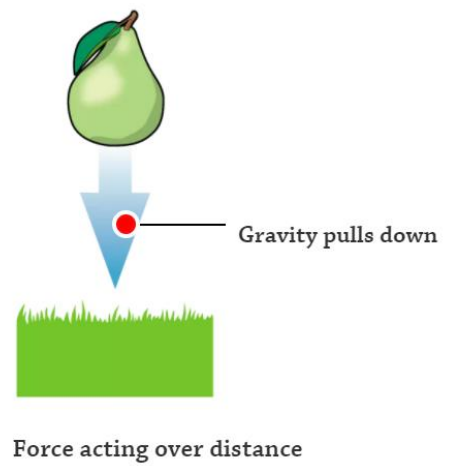
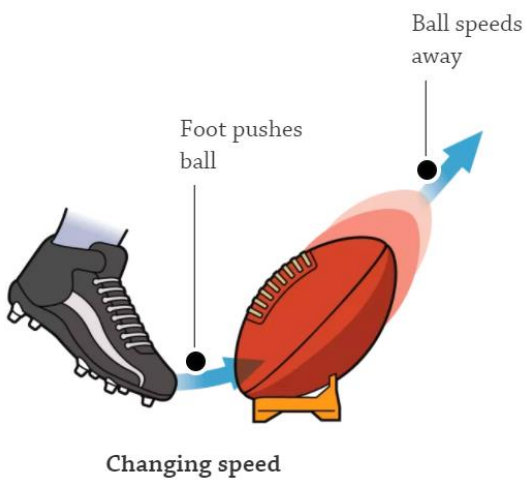
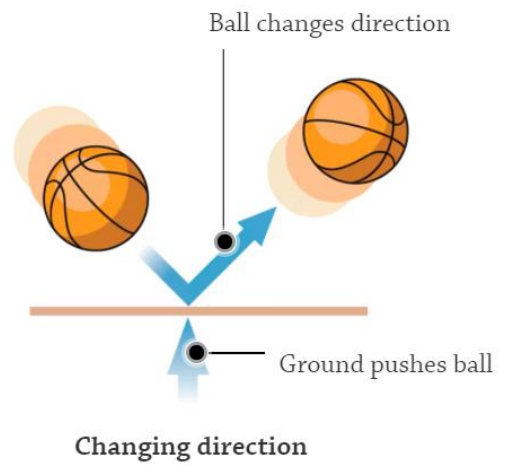
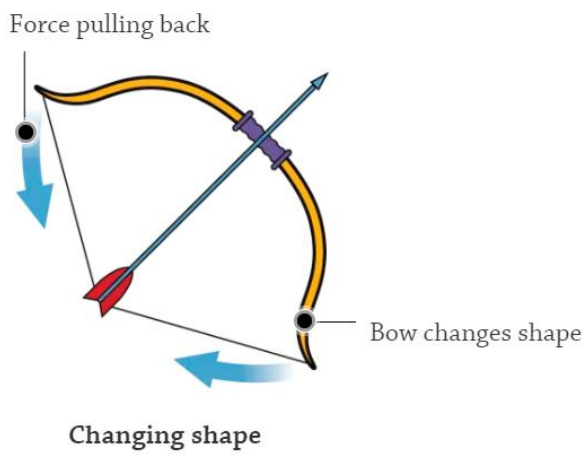


## Science



## Art



## **What you need to know about Deforestation**

Can you imagine Earth without forests? Here are some deforestation facts for kids that can be shared to raise their awareness about our environment:

1. 13 million hectares of forest have been cleared for other uses or by natural disaster. By the year 2030, we might only have 10% of our forests left... and if we don't stop deforestation, they could all be gone in 100 years.
2. Agriculture is the leading cause of deforestation. We clear the land to raise livestock or to plant other crops that can be sold, such as sugar cane and palm oil.
3. There are 5 major rainforests:
  - a. The Amazon in South America
  - b. The Congo in Central Africa
  - c. Southeast Asia
  - d. New Guinea
  - e. Madagascar

More facts:

1. Rainforests cover only 6% of the world's surface... yet they are home to more than 50% of the plant and animal species on Earth.
2. A patch of rainforest measuring 4 square miles can contain as many as 1,500 flowering plants, 400 species of birds, 750 species of trees and 150 species of butterflies. Not counting the other living things living there.
3. Every minute, forests the size of 20 football fields are cut down.

## **Why are Rainforests Important?**

Rainforests help regulate the Earth's temperature and weather patterns. Did you know that 20% of our oxygen is produced in the Amazon? But that's not all they're good for:

1. They are home to plants and animals. It took 60 to 100 million years for Rainforests to evolve and it is the home of over 30 million species of plants and animals. When we clear the forests, they all die.
2. 2) Trees help absorb the harmful carbon dioxide that we humans release in the atmosphere and they provide the oxygen that we need to breathe.
3. More than 25% of our medicines today come from rainforest plants. We have only explored 1% of the plants available. Just imagine what diseases the 99% that have not been explored can cure!
4. They soak up a lot of rainfall. The rainwater is filtered through the forest floors and supplies water to rivers and irrigation systems. They also help prevent erosion, where the soil is washed away causing blockages that in turn causes floods.
5. They are home to indigenous people. Many tribes still live in the rainforests.

If we don't stop deforestation, more than half of our plant and animal species will be extinct. It is the oldest ecosystem on Earth and they are impossible to replace. It took millions of years for rainforests to develop... how can we replenish fast enough to cope with the rate of deforestation?