

ORANGUTAN

SCHOOL



Beni, Clara and Valentino are classmates. Beni is the biggest, Clara is the quietest and Valentino is the naughtiest. But these classmates aren't kids – they're orangutans! So why are they at school?



SCHOOL BUS: The orangutans travel to school in a wheelbarrow.



There are now only **60,000** orangutans in Borneo.



BEFORE YOU READ

What animal is an orangutan?

At the Nyaru Menteng Forest School in Borneo, Indonesia, there are 600 orangutans. They are in classes of 8-12 students. The orangutans have lessons with human teachers. They teach them how to climb trees, how to make a nest*, how to open nuts – and that snakes are dangerous! In the wild, baby orangutans stay with their mother until they are eight years old. So why are orangutans going to school? Why aren't they living in the rainforest?

It's because the rainforest is getting smaller. Companies* are



NO HOME: The orangutans' home is cut down for palm oil plants.

cutting down trees to plant palm oil plants [See box] and the orangutans don't have enough food or places to stay. The mother orangutans leave the rainforest to look for food and trees – and are often killed.

The teachers at Forest School rescue* the babies. They teach them to survive in the rainforest. It's cute, but it's sad too.

What can we do?



If we don't stop destroying the rainforest, there will be no orangutans in 10-20 years' time.

*** WORDWISE**

English	French	Italian	German	Dutch	Spanish
nest	un nid	nido	Nest	nest	el nido
company	une entreprise	società	Unternehmen	firma	la compañía
to rescue	sauver	salvare	retten	redden	rescatar
to destroy	détruire	distruggere	zerstören	verwoesten	destruir

What is palm oil?

What is it?

It's a vegetable oil that comes from the palm oil plant.



What is it used in?

It's in shampoo, toothpaste, lipstick, pizza, biscuits, chewing gum, crisps, chocolate and many more things!



Why is it bad?

Companies destroy* the rainforest to grow palm oil plants.

What can I do?

- ✓ Buy products with no palm oil.
- ✓ Write a letter to the big companies that use palm oil.
- ✓ Make your own biscuits and toothpaste!

LISTEN

Track 3: Find out more about orangutan school
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LANGUAGE LAB

Online learning unit on this article:
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