

Checks for Understanding Answer Key

There are multiple correct answers for these questions. Check to be sure they are explaining the research and using vocabulary correctly. Here are some common answers from our recommended research:

Orangutans in the Wild

Directions: Explain 3 natural behaviors of orangutans that you learned about from your research. Don't forget to use the correct vocabulary!

- Brachiation: move by using their arms to swing from branch to branch
- Use of tools
- Adapted to live in trees
- Can tell different types of fruit and when fruit is ripe
- Social groups: mothers take care of babies, dominant males have large flanges, etc.
- Nest-building
- Calls to other orangutans

Orangutan Conservation

1. Why are orangutans important to their ecosystem?

- Seed dispersal through their feces
- Secondary consumer: They eat mostly fruit but also insects. They are also prey for other animals.
- Keystone species: Other species of animals depend on a keystone species. If a keystone species were to go extinct, the ecosystem would change drastically.
- Umbrella species: Protecting an umbrella species protects many other species that make up the ecosystem.
 - Orangutans are a keystone species and an umbrella species because their seed dispersal helps maintain the health of the forest ecosystem which is home to a large amount of diverse species.

2. What is one threat to orangutans' survival in the wild?

- Deforestation: Clearing of a wide area of trees by humans
- Unsustainable palm oil: Unsustainable palm oil plantations are a common cause of deforestation. Sustainable palm oil uses responsible practices to ensure habitats are protected.
- Poaching: Illegally hunting or catching orangutans for ownership or trade.

3. What can you do to help orangutans in the wild?

- Participate in the palm oil challenge: remove, replace, or use less of an item containing unsustainable palm oil
- Share with others why orangutans are important to their ecosystem

Orangutans at the Zoo

1. Which behavioral enrichment item(s) do you think the orangutans like best? Why?

Any of the enrichment items can be correct, as long as the student can explain correctly how the item would be used and how it connects to an orangutan's natural behaviors.

2. Which orangutan at the Phoenix Zoo is your favorite? Why?

Student opinion is correct, as long as they can justify it using the information from the biography or videos.