



10 Fun Facts About Mangroves to Share with Your Students or Kids

How to Use this worksheet:

Mangrove biomes contain trees that grow in highly saline concentrated coastal waters around the world. The Mangroves are crucial to the shoreline ecosystems but are unfortunately threatened today. Use this worksheet to share 10 interesting facts about Mangroves with your students or kids. Each fact presented is followed by a general trivia question that introduces related key concepts. Use the questions for a fun knowledge test or as a didactic tool to teach kids about this unique biome. Answers to the trivia questions can be found on the Answer Sheet provided at the end of the worksheet.

10 Fun Facts About Mangroves to Share with Your Students or Kids



1. The roots of the Mangrove trees and plants called breathing aerial roots or pneumatophores, grow above ground and are a highly specialized filter system. They extend into the water in subterranean regions where oxygen supply is scarce or nonexistent. These roots absorb oxygen from the air above ground and through their pores feed oxygen to under water oxygen starved tissues.

Trivia: Mangroves diminish soil erosion. True or False?

2. There are around 110 Mangrove species worldwide. Out of these, 54 species are considered true Mangroves. True or exclusive Mangrove species grow and are adapted to only saline, waterlogged shorelines. They don't extend into terrestrial plant areas. Plants that grow in the coastal environment and some within the Mangroves, are referred to as Mangrove associate species.

Trivia: Can Mangroves be planted?

3. The Indonesian archipelago has the world's highest concentration of Mangroves.

Trivia: About how many Mangrove tree species are there worldwide?

4. Many Mangrove species filter out about 90% of salt as their roots suck-in salty sea water. Some Mangrove plants filter salt water through pores in their leaves. This is how they survive.

Trivia: Why are Mangroves important for our oceans?

5. Over 100 tropical and subtropical countries have Mangrove forests along their shorelines.

Trivia: On average, how fast do Mangroves grow in the wild?

6. Mangrove forests act as a natural impediment to rising tides, and tsunami-like ocean storms

Trivia: Are Mangroves edible?

7. Scientists say that Mangrove forests cover just about 0.1% of our planet's surface area. Yet, incredibly, they absorb ten times or more carbon per hectare from the atmosphere than earth-bound forests of same size. (1 hectare, ha = 10,000 square meters).

Trivia: What is a Mangrove tannin?

8. Over 340 threatened species are protected by Mangrove biomes around the world. That list includes fish, shellfish, and many other mammal and bird species.

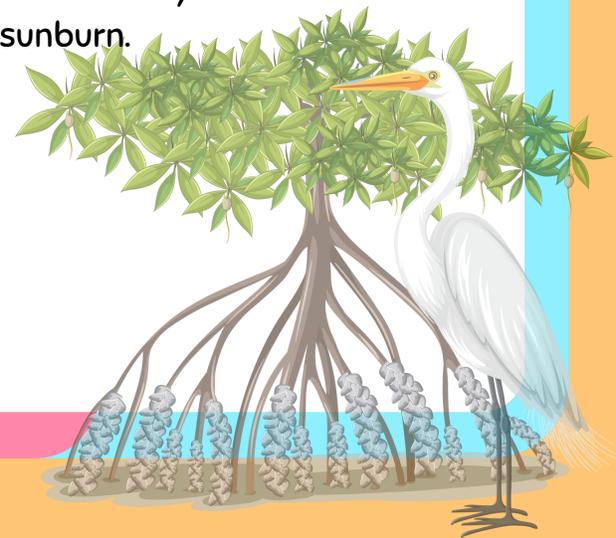
Trivia: The Bengal tigers live in Mangrove forests. True or False?

9. Mangroves provide a variety of ecosystem services, including supporting fisheries and providing hurricane and cyclonic storm protection.

Trivia: Worldwide, how much savings (money) do the Mangroves provide each year to local economies?

10. One of the world's biggest ecological problems is coral bleaching. Due to the Greenhouse effect caused by the destruction of the mangrove forests in the coastal wetlands, more and more carbon is being absorbed by the oceans. This is causing the coral reefs to undue UV radiation and sunburn.

Trivia: Name the world's biggest coral habitat that is undergoing coral bleaching.



Answer Sheet

1. Mangroves diminish soil erosion. True or False? Answer: True. The roots slow down water flow, encourage deposition of sediments and reduce erosion. The dense, impenetrable roots help bind and build soil.
2. Can Mangroves be planted? Answer: Yes, they can! And by planting them along the shorelines, they stabilize the ecosystem, buffering the shoreline from natural hazards like tsunami.
3. About how many Mangrove tree species are there worldwide? Answer: About 80.
4. Why are Mangroves important for our oceans? Answer: Mangroves protect and filter both saltwater and freshwater ecosystems to provide clean water to oceans.
5. On average, how fast do Mangroves grow in the wild? Answer: They grow about 6–7 feet (about 1.8–2 m) in just two years.
6. Trivia: Are Mangroves edible? Answer: Most can be peeled, soaked in water, and boiled to eat. Some can be eaten after drying and salted. Leaves can be made into tea and used as medicine. But some Mangroves are poisonous such as the sap of the milky Mangroves found in Australia.
7. What is a Mangrove tannin? Answer: An organic compound found in Mangroves and other plants, it gives Mangroves their distinct colors.
8. The Bengal tigers live in Mangrove forests. True or False? Answer: True. The Bengal tigers live in the Mangrove forest called Sundarbans in India and Bangladesh along the southeast coast. In India, they also live on the mainland.
9. Worldwide, how much savings (money) do the Mangroves provide each year to local economies? Answer: About \$1.6 billion!
10. Name the world's biggest coral habitat that is undergoing coral bleaching. Answer: Australia's Great Barrier Reef.