

Forests

A Very Short Introduction

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Questions for Thought and Discussion

- How has civilisations' use of, and perceptions towards, forests changed over history?
- Why does society have conflicting attitudes to forests?
- How did modern forest conservation ideas arise and develop?
- What is a forest, and why are there so many definitions of forest?
- Why are there so many different forest types, and what are the principle environmental factors that determine them?
- What are the main features of tropical, temperate and boreal forests?
- What key evolutionary developments and environmental changes led to the emergence and spread of the first forests?
- What is coal?
- What are the reasons for the ebb and flow of forests through geological time?
- What explanations have been proposed for the rapid diversification and spread of flowering plants during the Cretaceous period?
- What were the effects of the Quaternary ice ages on global forests, and how did forests respond to glacial retreat?
- Is there any such thing as a pristine undisturbed forest?
- Is it meaningful to speak of forest ecosystems as being 'stable'?
- What are the major natural disturbances that affect forests?
- How is (or might) the interaction of climate change with natural disturbance regimes affect future forests?
- Why do tree diseases appear to be on the increase?
- What benefits do forests provide to people?
- How might climate change affect forest cover, and how might forest cover affect climate change?
- How important are forests for global biodiversity and how is this biodiversity distributed across the world's forests?
- What is driving deforestation in the tropics?
- What are the future prospects for the world's forests?

Other Books by Jaboury Ghazoul

Ghazoul, J. and Sheil, D., *Tropical Rain Forest Diversity, Ecology and Conservation* (Oxford University Press, May 2010)