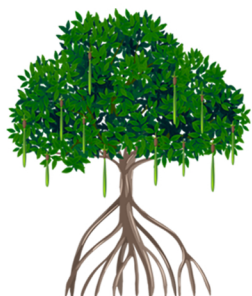




WHY ARE MANGROVES SO IMPORTANT?



Mangroves connect the lands and waters, standing strong along rivers and coasts. They also play an important role in maintaining the health of the surrounding ecosystems, wildlife, and people. Do you know all the benefits of mangroves?

ACTIVITY 1

To illustrate the connectivity of mangroves with other ecosystems, draw the following physical features in the diagram on page 2:



Mountains



Rainforests



Human settlement, buildings, communities



Coral reefs

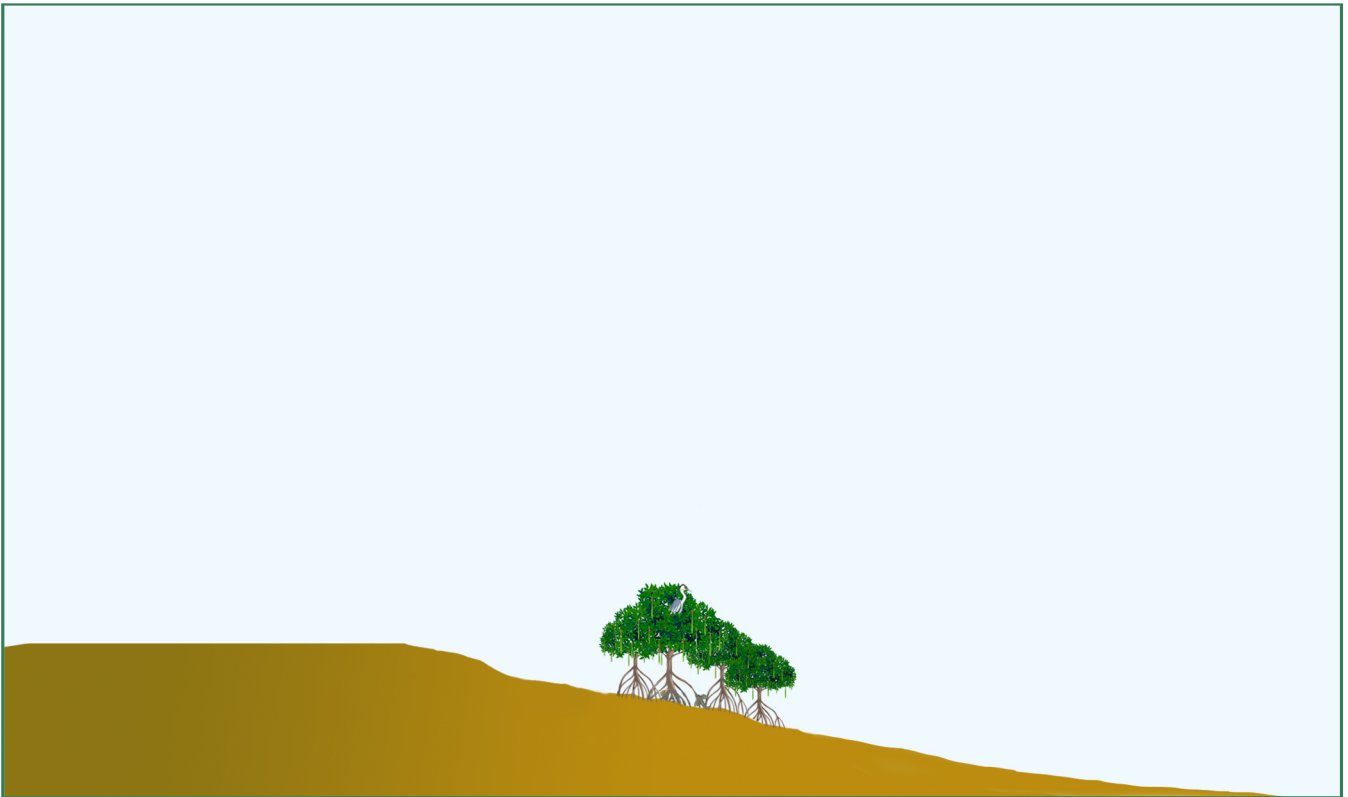


Sea

ACTIVITY 2

Next, label some of the benefits that mangroves provide for its surrounding environment, people, and wildlife, such as:

- Protection against storms and tidal surges
- Nursery and shelter for marine life, such as fish and crabs
- Carbon sequestration or absorption
- Trapping of sediments to prevent them from washing downstream
- Stopover for migratory birds
- Raw materials
- Source of food



Dive Deeper: What do you think will happen if there were no more mangroves in the world? How would it affect the way you live?

In the 1800s, approximately 13% of Singapore's rivers and coastlines were covered with mangroves. How much of that is left? Using what you know about where mangroves can be found, find a site in Singapore that used to be a mangrove environment and make observations about how it has changed the way wildlife and people use the space. You may want to conduct research on old maps and records of Singapore to locate such sites.