Laurissilva Forest: A Living Heritage

The Laurissilva Forest is a special type of forest found on the island of Madeira, Portugal. It is a UNESCO World Heritage site because it is home to many unique plants and animals that cannot be found anywhere else in the world. The forest is also important to the people of Madeira, who have lived near it for hundreds of years. They use the forest for water, food, and wood, and many stories and traditions come from this beautiful place. Today, climate change and pollution are putting the forest in danger. People are working together to protect the Laurissilva so it can be enjoyed for many generations.

Fill in the Blank

Fill in the blank with the correct words:

1. The Laurissilva Forest is found on the island of _____.
2. This forest is a _____ World Heritage site.
3. The Laurissilva is home to many _____ plants and animals.
4. People of Madeira get water, food, and _____ from the forest.
5. To help the forest, we must stop _____ and take care of nature.

Word bank: pollution, Madeira, wood, unique, UNESCO

Multiple Choice Questions

Choose the correct answer from the choices for each question:

1. Why is the Laurissilva Forest important to the world?
    - A) It is the biggest city in Portugal
    - B) It is home to rare plants and animals
    - C) It is made of only pine trees
    - D) It is a desert
2. Which of these is a way people use the Laurissilva Forest?
    - A) For swimming pools
    - B) For food, water, and wood
    - C) For cars
    - D) For making concrete

3. What does it mean when something is “endemic” to the forest?
    - A) It can be found everywhere
    - B) It comes from outer space
    - C) It is found only in that place
    - D) It is made by machines
4. How can we help protect the Laurissilva Forest?
    - A) Throw trash on the ground
    - B) Cut down all the trees
    - C) Teach others about its importance
    - D) Start wildfires
5. The Laurissilva Forest is a part of which country?
    - A) Brazil
    - B) Portugal
    - C) Spain
    - D) Italy

Open-Ended Questions

Answer the following questions in complete sentences:

1. Describe one way the Laurissilva Forest helps people who live nearby.
2. Why is it important to protect forests like the Laurissilva from pollution and climate change?
3. Imagine you are making a poster to help save the Laurissilva Forest. What is one message or picture you would include?

ANSWER KEY

Fill in the Blank Answers:

1. Madeira
2. UNESCO
3. unique
4. wood
5. pollution

Multiple Choice Answers:

1. B) It is home to rare plants and animals
2. B) For food, water, and wood
3. C) It is found only in that place
4. C) Teach others about its importance
5. B) Portugal

Open-Ended Example Responses:

1. The Laurissilva Forest helps people by providing fresh water and wood for their homes.
2. It is important to protect forests like the Laurissilva because they are home to many animals and plants, and they help keep the air clean.
3. My poster would show a big tree and say, “Protect the Laurissilva—Our Living Heritage!” with pictures of animals and people enjoying the forest.