

- Multiplication
- Decimals
- Percentages
- Scientific Notation
- The Unit Factor and Dimensional Analysis

Rain-Forest Math

Calculate the damage to the world's rain forests.

Tropical rain forests now cover about 7 percent of the Earth's land surface; however, about half the original forests have been cut during the last 50 years. An additional 2 percent of the total remaining tropical rain forest is being cut each year.

The Damage Done

1. Approximately what percentage of the Earth's surface was covered by rain forest 50 years ago?

2. The land surface of the Earth is approximately 1.49×10^8 km². How many square kilometers of that is rain forest today? Give your answer in scientific notation.

3. Suppose a certain rain forest consists of 500,000 km². The amount of rainfall per square meter per day is 20 L. If 2 percent of this rain forest is cut this year, how much water will be lost to next year's water cycle? Show all your work.
