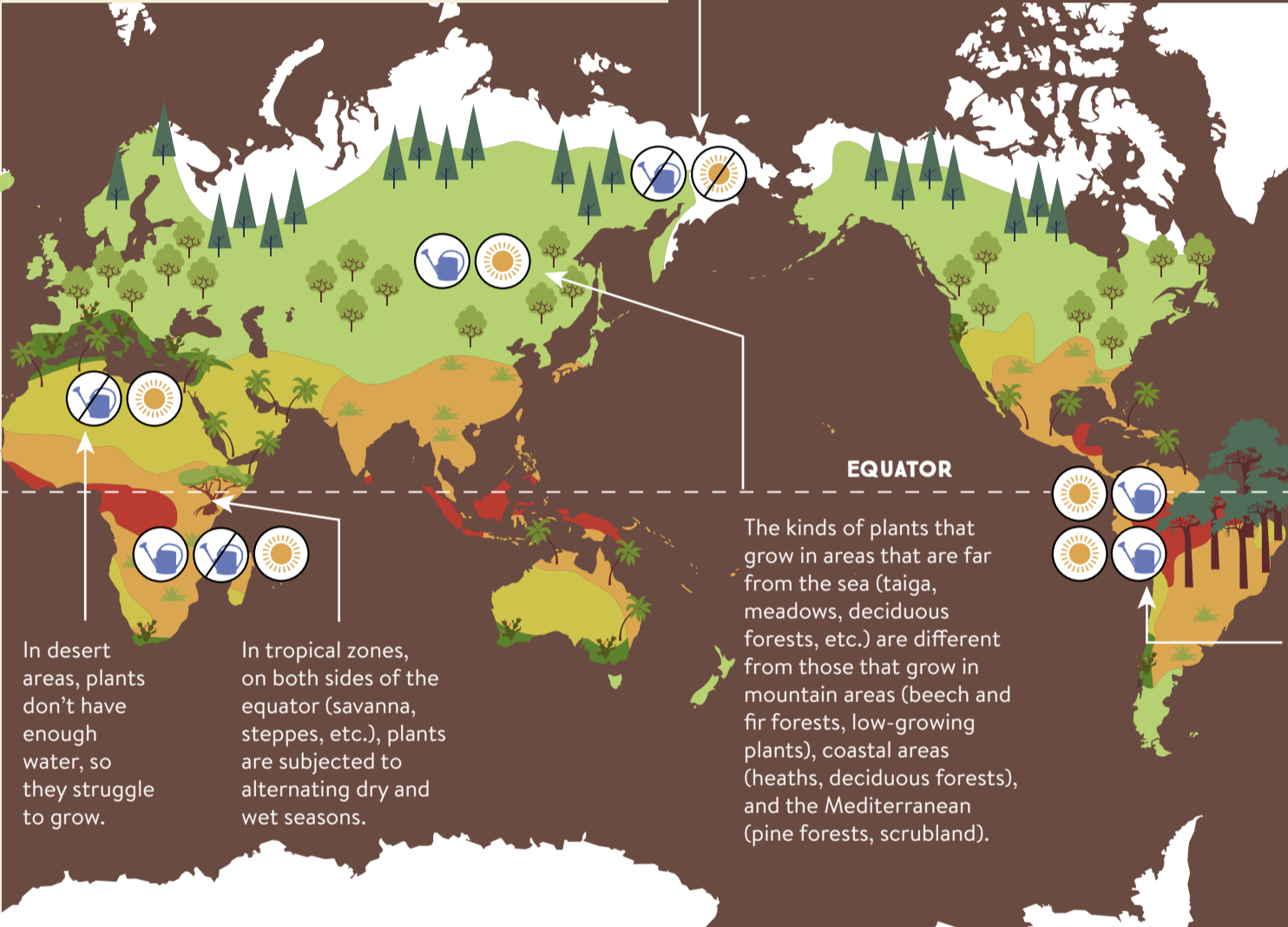


# THE SUNROOM

## NATURAL HABITATS AND VEGETATION



# LIGHTING AND WATERING

To grow, plants need soil, water, and light. Vegetation around the world is very different, depending on the climate and the type of the soil.

Near the poles, it is very cold all year round and the subsoil is permanently frozen. Only a few types of bushes, mosses, and lichens grow there.

The kinds of plants that grow in areas that are far from the sea (taiga, meadows, deciduous forests, etc.) are different from those that grow in mountain areas (beech and fir forests, low-growing plants), coastal areas (heaths, deciduous forests), and the Mediterranean (pine forests, scrubland).

31,000:  
THE NUMBER  
OF PLANT SPECIES  
HUMANS  
USE TO MAKE THEIR  
MEDICINE,  
FOOD, FUEL, AND  
MATERIALS.

### TREES AND PLANTS

Plants play a very important role on Earth. They enrich the soil and feed the millions of animals that eat them to survive. By absorbing carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) from the atmosphere, they also allow us to breathe!

*Trees*

Several teams of botanists have counted how many tree species there are in the world. A tree is any plant with a wooden trunk that's at least 6.5 ft. tall. Anything smaller is considered a shrub. There are at least 65,065 tree species on Earth. More than half of these are found in Brazil.

*Plants*

Even though scientists consider trees to be plants too, this category generally refers to plants that are small in size or whose trunks or stems do not turn into wood. There are more than 390,000 species of plants, not to mention all the ones that haven't been discovered yet.

### RARE PLANTS

For every ton (2,000 lb.) of plant material (trees, plants, flowers, etc.) that grows in the wild, humans collect 550 lb. of it to make food and clothing, or to heat, build, and decorate their homes.

### 1 IN 5 PLANTS WORLDWIDE ARE IN DANGER OF BECOMING EXTINCT.

This explains why several plant species are in danger of disappearing in the near future. One example of this is wild orchids, which are harder and harder to find in nature.

**THE LADY'S SLIPPER ORCHID, AN ENDANGERED SPECIES.**

2,000  
NEW PLANT SPECIES  
ARE DISCOVERED  
ON AVERAGE  
EVERY YEAR  
BY SCIENTISTS.

### TROPICAL GREENHOUSE

In Asia and South America, tropical forests are disappearing at an alarming rate. Farmers often chop down and burn trees to make room for livestock or soybean and palm-oil crops. Trees are cut down to clear space for roads and new buildings. Forests are also destroyed for their wood so we can make furniture, paper, firewood, and build homes. This is called deforestation.

*The dangers*

Deforestation depletes the soil, causes many plant and animal species to become extinct, and contributes to global warming\*. Forests naturally absorb carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), so as more more trees disappear, huge amounts of greenhouse gas\* are left in the atmosphere.

*The solutions*

All over the world, major reforestation efforts are bringing forests back to life. In addition to this, many associations (WWF, Greenpeace, etc.) are suggesting more ways to fight deforestation. Examples include eating less meat, buying cereals and snacks that don't contain palm oil, buying recycled paper, and getting wood from sustainable forests.

32  
TREES ARE  
PLANTED  
EVERY  
SECOND  
WORLDWIDE.

32 TO 37  
MILLION  
ACRES OF VEGETATION  
DISAPPEAR  
EVERY  
YEAR.  
THAT'S MORE THAN A  
FOOTBALL  
FIELD EVERY  
SECOND!