

Preserving Ecosystems



Procedure

1. **Compare** The maps show the amount of land in Ecuador that was covered by rainforest in 1938, 1958, 1988, and 2005. Compare the maps. In the space below, describe how the area of forest changed from 1938 to 2005.

2. **Analyze Data** Estimate the area of Ecuador that is covered by forest for each year shown. Do this by counting the number of green squares on each map. Record, in square units, the estimated area of forest for each year.

3. **Use Numbers** Make a bar graph of the data you recorded in step 2. Label one axis *Years* and the other axis *Number of Square Units*.

A blank coordinate grid with a vertical y-axis and a horizontal x-axis, intended for drawing a bar graph.

4. **Use Numbers** Make a bar graph of the following data of the estimated number of people in Ecuador: 1938, 2 million; 1958, 4 million; 1988, 10 million; 2005, 13 million. Label one axis *Years* and the other axis *Number of People*.



Conclusion

1. **Compare** Compare the graphs you made in steps 3 and 4. How are they alike?

2. **Predict** If the number of people in Ecuador continues to grow, what do you think might happen to the area of the rainforest?

Ask Questions With a classmate, brainstorm several questions about rainforest conservation. Select one question to research.

Guided Inquiry