

WHY ARE MANGROVES IMPORTANT?



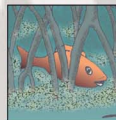
MANGROVES PROVIDE FISH, CRABS, WOOD AND MEDICINE FOR PEOPLE.



MANY KINDS OF BIRDS MAKE THEIR NESTS IN THE PROTECTIVE BRANCHES OF MANGROVE TREES.



MANGROVES PROTECT COASTAL AREAS FROM EROSION AND DAMAGE FROM WIND AND STORM WAVES WITH THEIR THICK, EXTENSIVE ROOT SYSTEMS.



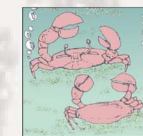
BABY FISH USE THE MAZE OF ARCHED MANGROVE ROOTS TO HIDE FROM THEIR ENEMIES UNTIL THEY ARE BIG ENOUGH TO VENTURE OUT ONTO THE REEFS .



MANGROVE ROOTS TRAP MUD AND SEDIMENTS THAT WASH OFF THE LAND DURING HEAVY RAINFALLS. THIS STOPS THE MUD FROM ENDING UP ON TOP OF THE CORAL REEFS AND KILLING THEM.



MANGROVES ARE NURSERIES AND BREEDING AREAS FOR MANY KINDS OF FISH, CRABS, LOBSTERS AND PRAWNS.



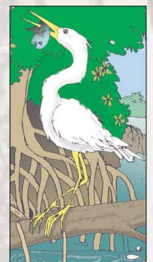
DEAD LEAVES AND ANIMALS THAT FALL INTO THE WATER ARE FOOD FOR CRABS, PRAWNS AND SHELLFISH.



SEA EAGLES MAKE THEIR NESTS FROM MANGROVE STICKS AND BRANCHES, AND DEPEND ON THE FISH THAT LIVE IN THE SHALLOW WATER.



MANGROVE TREES RELY ON BATS AND INSECTS TO POLLINATE THEIR FLOWERS.



MANGROVES ARE IMPORTANT PLACES FOR HERONS AND OTHER BIRDS TO HUNT FOR INSECTS, CRABS, AND MOLLUSKS.