THE MYSTERIES OF MANGROVES

A mangrove is a land plant that is able to live in salt water. These plants come in all shapes and sizes of trees and shrubs. They have developed a number of specialised adaptations that enable them to live in intertidal regions – the area between high tide and low tide. Mangrove areas are highly fertile habitats, supporting a rich diversity of animal species.

Image: Richard McKenna

Mangroves live in a harsh environment: the mud is regularly flooded, is low in oxygen and high in salt. Waves and tides batter the plants and make it hard for mangrove seedlings to survive.

Mangroves:

- Create a buffer zone from storms reducing erosion, filtering pollutants from land run-off, and trapping silt and sediments.
- Are important nursery areas for marine animals, providing shelter and protection.
- Are an important food source, forming the base of rich food webs.

Unscramble each of the clue words. Then copy the letters in the numbered cells to other cells with the same number to reveal the message.

RVGOMSEAN
3 20 29 22 23 2 34 43

LADN LNTAP
61 52 6 33 45 31 49 53 58

RIETNTADIL ORNEISG
69 14 4 38 62 28 54 39 70 50 26 55 68 15

LATS NOETLTAR
27 60 11 59 66 56 57 63

FUFREB NOEZ
9 32 17 51 24 13

SURNEYR AERA
21 41 47 48 71 8 46 12

DOFO SORUEC
16 67 36 1 35 65 37 19

RCHI SDVIYRETI
44 30 7 42 5 25 64 40 10 18

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 7 19 3 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27

28 29 30 31 32 33 34 3 35 36 37 38 39 9 40 , 3 41 42 43 K 44 45 45 46 47 48 ,

9 49 50 51 52 3 32 53 54 55 56 57 36 58 7 59 15 60 61 62 W 20 63 64 65

37 66 67 37 68 42 69 70 71 .

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