

- You/we must _____.
- You/we should _____.
- You/we could _____.

Persuade

Listen to Clara's chant. Then use **Language Frames** to persuade classmates about an idea you have.

A Healthy Idea

We must eat our vegetables—
Three vegetables a day.
So we should grow a garden here.
Let's do it right away!

We could plant this plot of dirt
With vegetables and herbs.
All those vitamins and minerals
Will make us feel superb!

You should plant a garden, too.
It's a healthy thing to do.

Chant 

Key Words

agriculture

crop

farmer

field

harvest

plow

Key Words

Look at the pictures. Use **Key Words** and other words to talk about **agriculture**.



Farmers **plow** the land.



They plant seeds in their **fields**.



They water the plants.



They **harvest** their **crops**.

Talk Together

What's the best way to do the work on a farm? Use **Language Frames** from page 254 and **Key Words**. Try to persuade your partner to agree with you.

Opinion and Evidence

When you give an **opinion**, you tell what you believe about something. You might say:

- In my opinion, ____ .
- I think ____ .

Read Clara's opinion and supporting reasons, or **evidence**.



Map and Talk

You can use an opinion chart to record an opinion and the evidence that supports it. To make one, write the opinion in the top box. List each piece of evidence under the top box.

Opinion Chart

Opinion:

I think we should plant our own vegetables.

Evidence:

Our vegetables will taste fresher.

Evidence:

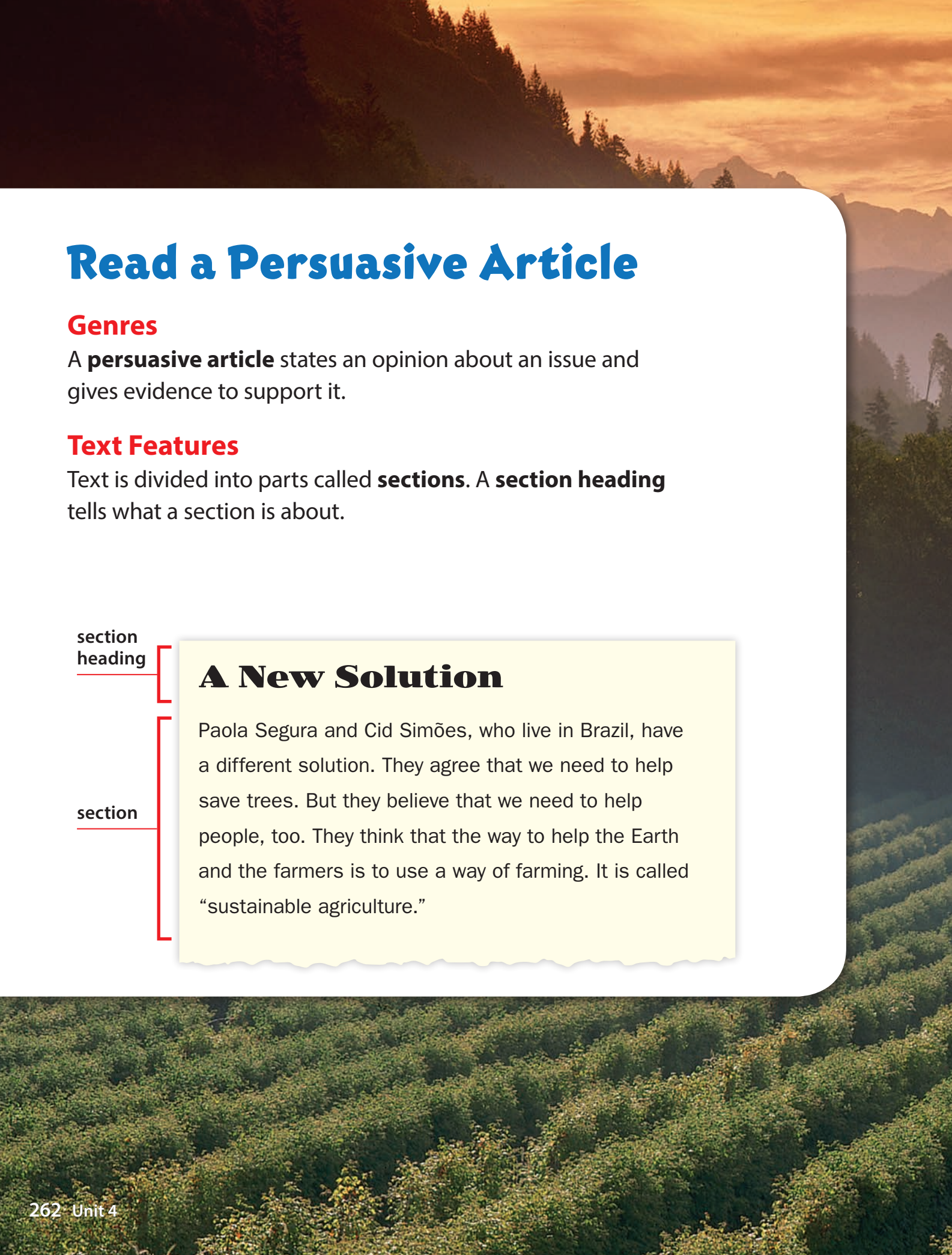
They will cost less money.

Evidence:

Gardening is good exercise.

Talk Together

Tell your partner an opinion that you have. Give supporting reasons. Your partner makes an opinion chart.



Read a Persuasive Article

Genres

A **persuasive article** states an opinion about an issue and gives evidence to support it.

Text Features

Text is divided into parts called **sections**. A **section heading** tells what a section is about.

section
heading

A New Solution

section

Paola Segura and Cid Simões, who live in Brazil, have a different solution. They agree that we need to help save trees. But they believe that we need to help people, too. They think that the way to help the Earth and the farmers is to use a way of farming. It is called “sustainable agriculture.”



NATIONAL
GEOGRAPHIC
EXCLUSIVE

A Better Way

by Juan Quintana

► Set a Purpose

Learn about a **method** of farming that helps both the land and people.

Losing Trees

Every year, many **acres** of Earth's precious forests are cut down. Sometimes people cut down the forest for wood. Other times, they cut it down to make room for **cattle** or large farms. Often, poor **farmers** burn a small area of forest to **clear it of** trees. In the cleared area, they plant **crops** to feed their families. This is called **slash-and-burn agriculture**.

Slash-and-Burn Agriculture



1. **Farmers** cut down trees.



2. Farmers burn the dry trees to clear the land.



3. Farmers plant **crops**. When the land wears out, they clear new land.

acres large areas

cattle cows

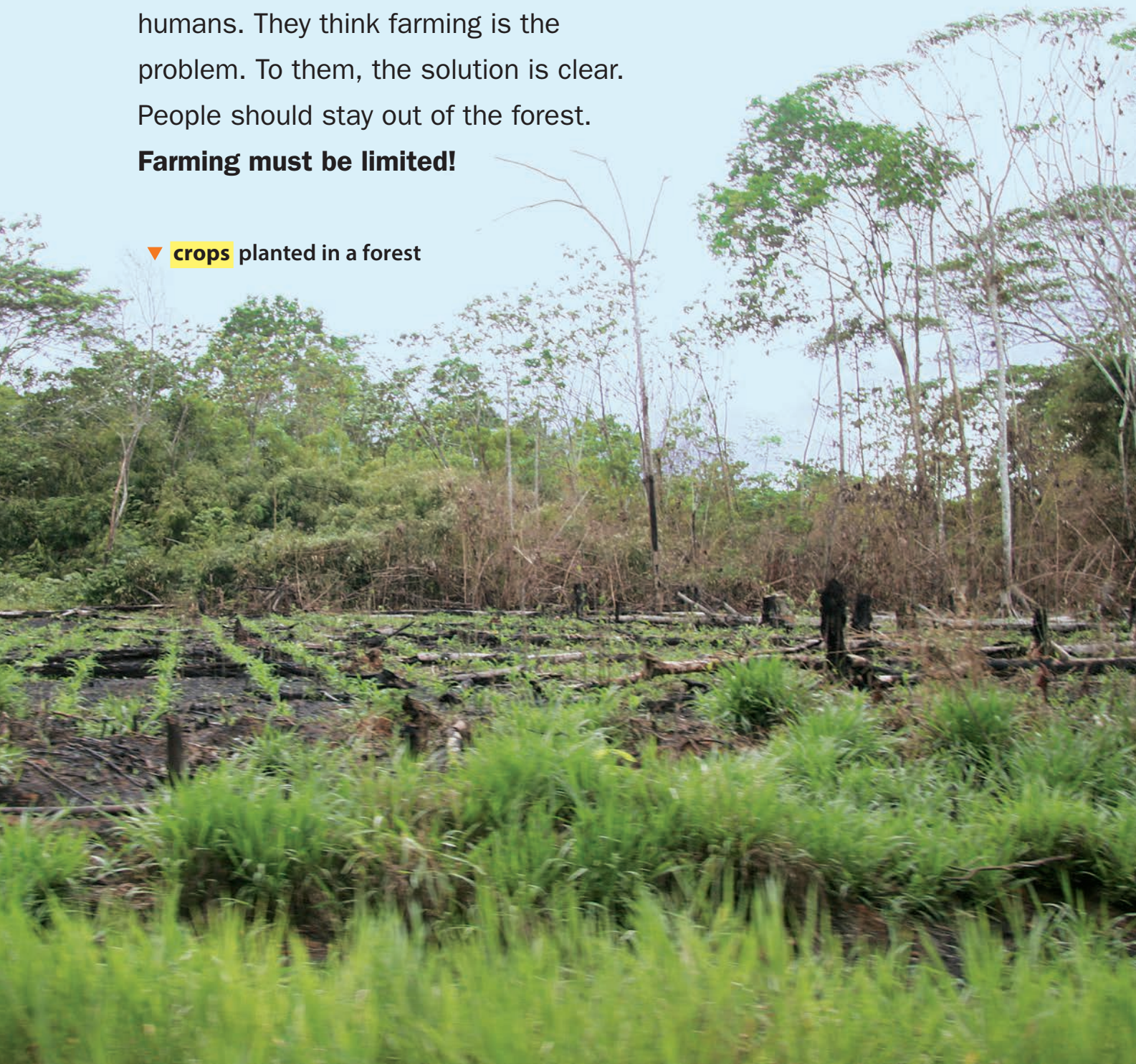
clear it of get rid of the

slash cut

For all of these reasons, forests have been disappearing. Some people blame humans. They think farming is the problem. To them, the solution is clear. People should stay out of the forest.

Farming must be limited!

▼ **crops** planted in a forest



Farming must be limited!

People must not farm too much!

► Before You Continue

1. **Summarize** In your own words, retell the important ideas in this section.
2. **Steps in a Process** What is the second step in slash-and-burn **agriculture**? Point to where you found the information.

A New Solution

Paola Segura and Cid Simões, who live in Brazil, have a different solution. They agree that we need to help save trees. But they believe that we need to help people, too. They think that the way to help the Earth and the **farmers** is to use a way of farming. It is called “sustainable **agriculture**.”



- ▲ Segura and Simões were named “Emerging Explorers” by the National Geographic Society. The Society wanted to thank them for their work.

Segura and Simões met in Costa Rica at Earth University. There they studied sustainable agriculture. They believe that farmers can earn money from a small piece of land. They can live there and **raise** their families. They can have healthy land and a community that **lasts**.





Using sustainable **agriculture**, **farmers** use the same small piece of land over and over again to grow **crops**. That way, they don't have to find new land and cut down more forests.

raise take care of

lasts stays together for a long time

► Before You Continue

1. **Use Text Features** Does the heading on page 266 give you a good idea of what this section is about? Explain.
2. **Summarize** Tell a partner the most important ideas on this page.

Helping Farmers

Today, Segura and Simões teach **farmers** about **crops** that grow well in the forest. Fruit trees and flowers can provide a good **income**. Fruit trees don't have to be replanted every year. Their deep roots help keep water and healthy nutrients in the soil. Some flowers, such as orchids, grow on less land than other crops. Farmers can sell their flowers to markets around the world.

People like to buy beautiful flowers. These are orchids. ▶



▲ Inside the fruit of a cocoa tree are seeds. The seeds can be sold to make chocolate.

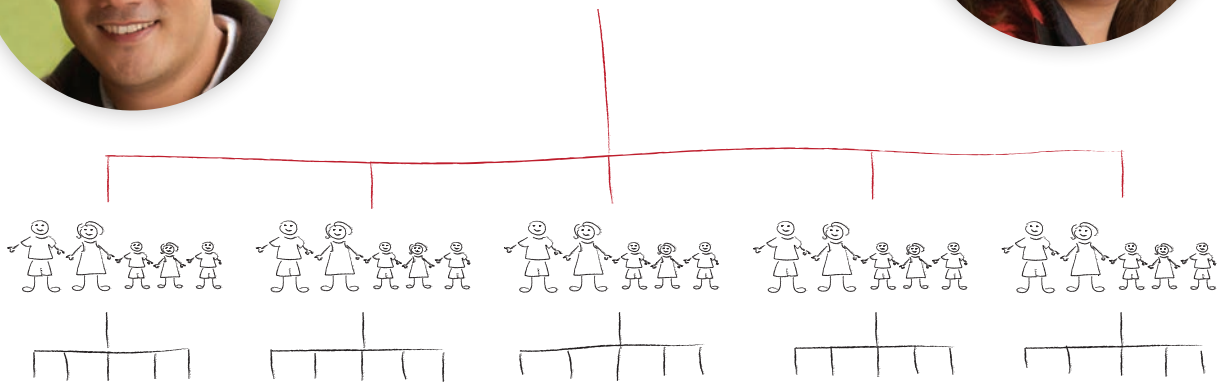
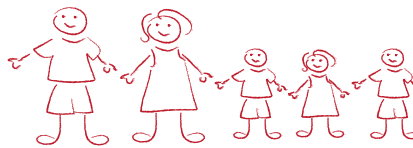


income way to make money

Branching Out

To make a difference, many **farmers** need to grow **crops** this way. Segura and Simões use a special plan to teach more farmers. It is called the *5 × 5 System*. First, they teach one family how to grow crops that don't ruin the land. Then that family teaches five new families what they learned. Each new family teaches five more families. Think of all the land that could be saved in the **future**!

5 × 5 System



► Before You Continue

1. **Details** What are two types of sustainable **crops** for a forest?
2. **Summarize** Explain briefly in your own words how the 5 × 5 System works.

Let's Help Farmers Save Land!

Sustainable **agriculture** is good for the **farmer**. It is also good for the land. Here are three reasons why you should **support** this kind of farming.

First, sustainable agriculture lets farmers grow **crops** on the same land year after year. This is much better than slash-and-burn agriculture. When farmers stay on the same land, they build strong communities.

Palm hearts like these can grow on the same tree year after year. ►



support help



Soybeans are a high-value **crop**. ▶



▲ Orchids grow naturally in the forest.

Secondly, sustainable **agriculture** is better for the forest. **Farmers** don't need to clear new land every year. Instead, they can grow **high-value crops**. That way, they can make money from a small amount of land. Some crops grow right in the forest. Farmers don't have to clear any land at all!

high-value crops crops that are grown easily that people will always buy

▶ Before You Continue

1. **Opinion/Evidence** What is the author's opinion about slash-and-burn **agriculture**? How do you know?
2. **Use Text Features** Look at the photos. Name two plants that help save land.

Finally, sustainable **agriculture** keeps **farmers farming**. Every year, many poor farmers leave the land. They move to the city. This causes problems, such as **unemployment**. It also leaves the land without people to care for it.



▲ If they can't farm, some **farmers** have to move to the city to find work.

keeps farmers farming lets farmers continue to farm
unemployment too few jobs for people in the city

To save forests and help **farmers**, we must support people like Paola Segura and Cid Simões. We must be part of the sustainable way of farming. What can you do to help? ❖



◀ unshelled Brazil nuts



▲ Brazil nuts can be a sustainable **crop**.

► Before You Continue

1. **Author's Purpose** What is the author's purpose for writing the article? How do you know?
2. **Cause and Effect** According to the text, what can happen when **farmers** are not able to keep farming?