The Growth of the Banana Industry in Costa Rica and Its Effect on Biodiversity

Directions: Read this information about the development of international banana trade in Costa Rica and develop a brief presentation that clearly expresses your response to the following:

1. When did international trade (export) of bananas begin in Costa Rica and how has it changed during the past 150 years?

2. Explain how biodiversity is threatened in Costa Rica.

3. Describe the connection between transnational companies (international companies) and the use of chemicals in banana plantations in Costa Rica.

4. How is the environment being damaged due to banana plantations (usually owned by international corporations) operating in Costa Rica?
**Poster & Presentation Requirements:**

**Posters:** The poster should act as the “fact sheet” for your topic. *This means that someone without the listener guide could actually understand your poster and learn from it.*
- All group members’ names must be on the front of the poster.
- Posters must include pictures and/or diagrams.
- Words must be large enough to read from a distance.
- Do NOT use complete sentences.

**Presentations:** Yes, you are also graded on your ability to present your information to the class.
- All members of the group must play a role in the presentation.
- Pause between presenting different ideas so that the audience has time to take notes.
- Speak a little louder than normal so that people in the back of the room can hear you.
- Be prepared to answer questions about your topic.

**Specific questions that your listeners will be answering during your presentation:**
- Describe when international trade of bananas began in Costa Rica.
- Provide a timeline for international (transnational) companies involved in the banana trade in Costa Rica.
- What is so unique about Costa Rica in terms of biodiversity?
- Describe how (and why) biodiversity is threatened in Costa Rica.
- How are banana plantations (run by large corporations) hurting the environment?