

Topic

Rainforests

Year:

3

Term:

Spring 1

Key Knowledge

- A **rainforest** is a very dense, wet and warm forest.
- It is called a rainforest because of the high amount of rainfall it gets each year. Rainforests have an average yearly rainfall of at least 254 cm.
- Rainforests are very important as the plants within it generate much of the Earth's oxygen.
- There are 2 types of rainforest: **Temperate** and **Tropical** Rainforests.
- Rainforests are found near to the equator between the tropic of Cancer and the tropic of Capricorn.
- They can be found in every continent except Antarctica.
- They are located in countries such as Brazil, India, Peru, Mexico, Australia and Malaysia.
- As many as **30 million species of plants and animals** live in tropical rainforests.
- Rainforests cover about 6% of the Earth's surface.
- There are 4 main parts of a rainforest:

Emergent Layer	Canopy Layer	Understory Layer	Forest Floor
Trees can be up to 60m tall	Trees form a roof over the plants below	Trees grow to less than 4m tall	Very few plants
Lots of sunlight	Lots of sunlight but also plenty of rain	Very little sunlight	Almost no sunlight
Cold and windy	Lots of food for animals	Warm and humid	Leaves and debris decompose quickly
Birds, bats, monkeys and butterflies	Snakes, toucans and tree frogs	Lots of insects	Gorillas, anteaters, leopards and tigers

Climate

The **climate** in the rainforest is the same all year round.

- Average rainfall of 6cm each month
- Usually rains every day
- Hot and **humid**

The Amazon Rainforest

- 5.5 million square km (previously covered a much larger area)
- Parts in Brazil, Peru, Columbia, Venezuela, Ecuador, Bolivia, Guyana, Suriname and French Guiana
- 2.5 million insect species
- 40 000+ plant species
- 3 000 edible fruits
- 2 000+ species of birds and mammals

- 2 million tourists per year
- 170 different languages spoken
- 250 000 **native tribes** currently live there

- **Deforestation** is taking place in many Rainforests which is when trees are being cut down. They do this to create fields for farming cattle and growing crops, to produce timber and wood pulp and to make space for housing.

Positive Impacts	Negative Impacts
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jobs are created in logging and transporting timber and manufacturing products. • Selling land raises money for local people. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People's homes are destroyed. • Animals and plants may become extinct through habitat loss. • Plants that may have been useful could be lost.

We can protect rainforests by using both sides of a piece of paper, buying Fairtrade goods, turn off electrical items when not in use, go to a library or use e - books rather than buy new books.

Key Vocabulary

Rainforest A very dense, wet and warm forest.

Deforestation The cutting down and clearing of forests.

Equator An imaginary circle running round the centre of the earth.

Indigenous tribes The original settlers of an area.

Species A group of similar animals or plants.

Humid Feeling very damp due to water vapour in the air.

Climate The average weather conditions over a long period of time.

Tropical Hot and humid climate. No dry season.

Emergent Layer The top layer of a rainforest.

Canopy Layer Beneath the emergent layer.

Understory Layer A warm, damp and sheltered layer.

Forest Floor The lowest layer where it is dark, hot and damp.

Useful Links

- <http://www.mbgnet.net/sets/rforest/index.htm>
- <https://www.rainforestanimals.net/>
- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zkbmt39>