

Year 5: Regional Study: the Amazon, a Tropical Rainforest Biome



Key Knowledge

✓Tropical rainforests are all located near the equator in Africa,

Asia, Australia and Central and South America.

- ✓ The most famous is the Amazon Rainforest.
- ✓There are four layers to the rainforest: emergent, canopy, understory and forest floor.
- ✓ Deforestation of the tropical rainforest is having many short and long-term consequences.
- √There are many endangered species in the rainforest. Many species of tropical rainforest animals and plants have become extinct: meaning there are no more living members of the species.
- ✓ Many ingredients found in medicines come from the plants found in the rainforests.
- ✓ Many tribes live in the rainforests; they are known as indigenous people. This means that they belong to the country, in which they are located.

Maps







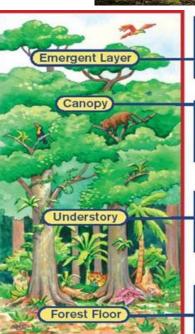


Big Idea

Tropical rainforests are frequently referred to as the 'Lungs of the Earth', due to their ability to absorb vast quantities of carbon dioxide (a 'Greenhouse gas') and produce significant quantities of oxygen into the Earth's atmosphere. Tropical rainforests help to stabilise the global climate. Furthermore, the world's tropical rainforests are havens of biodiversity and are the most complex of the world's biomes, home to a plethora of animals and plants that are interconnected in many complex

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environments.



Birds, bats, and butterflies live in the tops of the tallest trees. That is called the emergent layer.

In the tops of the shorter trees, or canopy, you can find animals such as toucans and monkeys.

Snakes, red-eyed tree frogs, and other animals live in the understory, or lower branches.

Animals such as jaguars can be found on the dark forest floor.

Concepts











Place

Scale Environment

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Human and
Physical Sustainability
Processes

Vocabulary

Biome: an area of the world that has a specific climate, flora and fauna.

tropical rainforests: grow in areas of high precipitation between the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn.

Biodiversity: the variety of animals and plants that live in a particular environment.

Emergent Layer: name given to the tallest trees.

Canopy Layer: may be over 30 metres high, is composed of the overlapping branches and leaves of the trees.

the Understorey: layer comprised of younger trees: it is a dense, low-light and humid place.

the Forest Floor: is dark and humid place, home to many of the tropical rainforests insects and mammals, for example, Jaguars.

deforestation: is when the trees are felled and the space is permanently changed for an alternative use.

endangered: a species very likely to become extinct.

Sustainable Development: the use of natural resources that do not negatively impact on the environment.