

Rainforests - Year 3 - Term 1



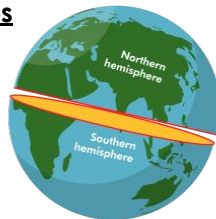
Plants and animals

Rainforests are extremely important in the ecology of the Earth. They cover only 6% of the Earth but they are home to 50% of all plant and animal species. 25% of medicines come from plants found in the **rainforest**.

Importance

Rainforests are known as the 'lungs of the Earth'. The trees absorb harmful carbon dioxide and produce 16% of the oxygen in Earth's atmosphere.

Northern and Southern Hemispheres



The **Southern Hemisphere** means everything **south** of the **Equator**.

The **Northern Hemisphere** means everything **north** of the **Equator**.

Biomes

The tropical **rainforest** is a hot, moist **biome** where it rains all year long.

It is known for its dense canopies of vegetation that form 4 different layers.

Deforestation

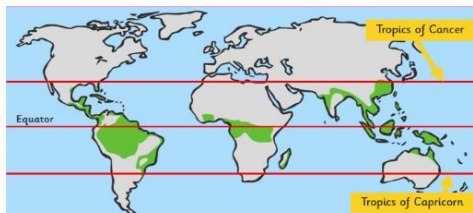
Every 20 minutes, an area of **rainforest** the size of 20 football pitches is cut down. If this rate continues, there will be no **rainforests** in 100 years.

What do you already know?

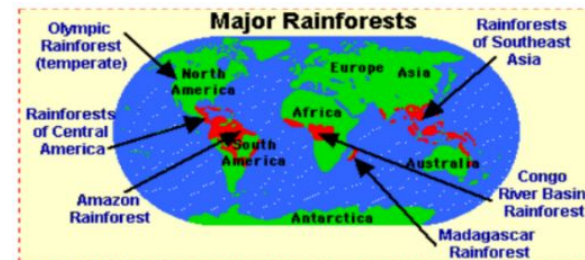


- The 7 continents: North America, South America, Antarctica, Europe, Asia, Africa, Oceania.
- The 5 oceans: Pacific, Atlantic, Southern, Arctic and Indian.
- Where the Equator, North Pole and South Pole are on a globe?

Where are rainforests found?



Rainforests are found between the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn.

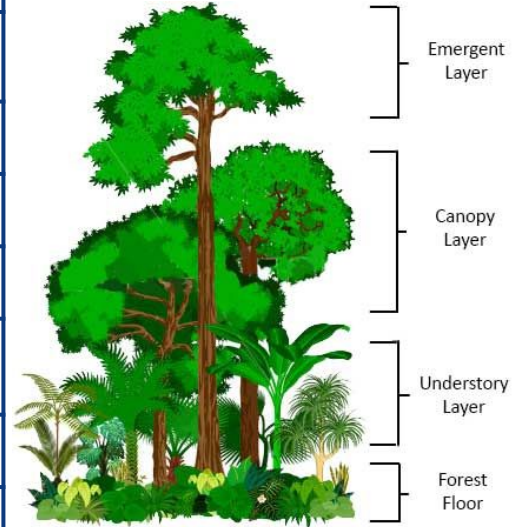


Vocabulary



biome	Biomes are areas with a similar climate and landscape, where similar animals and plants live. (rainforest, desert, grassland)
climate	The weather conditions in an area over a long period of time.
continent	A large area of land. Earth has 7 continents.
deforestation	The action of clearing or cutting down a vast area of trees.
Equator	An imaginary circle that divides the earth into two equal halves.
habitat	The natural home or environment of an animal or plant.
humid	Having high levels of moisture (water vapour) in the air.
Northern Hemisphere	The Northern Hemisphere is the area of Earth that is North of the Equator.
Rainforest	A rainforest is a forest that grows in an area with high rainfall.
Southern Hemisphere	The Southern Hemisphere is the area of Earth that is South of the Equator.
Tropical rainforest	A tropical rainforest is hot and wet.

The rainforest is made up of 4 different layers.



These are the tallest trees in the rainforest. It is hot, wet and windy in this layer.

The canopy is the thickest layer of the rainforest. There is plenty of food and shelter in this layer.

This layer has shorter, young trees and some bushes. This layer does not get much sunlight. It is dark and humid here.

This layer gets almost no sunlight but a few small plants grow here. This layer is dark, humid and hot.

Northern Hemisphere	Southern Hemisphere
France	Australia
Germany	Argentina
Poland	New Zealand
Italy	South Africa

