

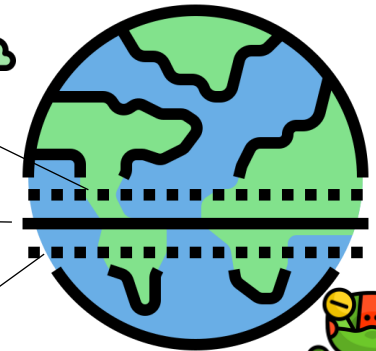
Year 6: South America – The Amazon Knowledge Organiser



Tropic of Cancer

Equator

Tropic of Capricorn



ESSENTIAL RAINFORESTS VOCABULARY

Climate change	Change in average conditions (such as temp. and rainfall) in a region, over a long period of time.
deforestation	The cutting down and clearing of forests for purposes such as farming or mining.
logging	.Cutting down trees for the sale of timber (for houses and furniture) or pulp (for paper).
sustainability	Using natural resources in a way that means they won't run out and can be used for a long time.
species	A group of living organisms that can breed with one another.
indigenous	People who are native to a place, such as tribes in the Amazon rainforest.
biome	A large area that has a specific climate and is habitat to specific species of plant and animals.
Amazon River	The second longest river in the world but has the largest discharge (volume of water flowing through).
ecosystem	A community or group of living organisms that live in a specific environment.
Amazon Basin	The area of South America that is drained by The River Amazon and its tributaries.
rainforest	A dense rainforest found in tropical areas with consistent heavy rainfall.
habitat	The natural home or environment of an animal, place or other organism.
oxygen	One of the main elements that make up the air that many living things breathe.
mammal	A warm-blooded animal that has hair/ fur, feeds young with milk and gives birth to live young.
amphibian	A cold blooded animal that can live and breathe on land or in water.

Rainforest Locations

Tropical rainforests are located near to the equator between the tropic of Cancer and the topic of Capricorn. They can be found in every continent except Antarctica.

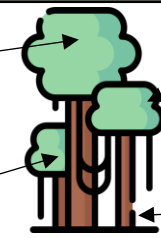
They are found in countries such as Australia, Brazil, India, Peru, Mexico and Malaysia.

Emergent Layer

Trees can grow up to 60m at this layer. There is plenty of sunlight, and it is cold and windy. Birds, bats and monkeys are found here.



Layers of the Rainforest



Understory Layer

Trees at this layer grow to less than 4m tall. There is very little sunlight, but it is warm and humid. Plenty of insects are found here!



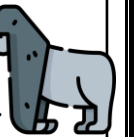
Fun fact! The Amazon is often known as the 'Lungs of the Planet'.

Canopy Layer

Trees at this layer form a type of roof. There is plenty of sunlight, but also lots of rain. Snakes, birds and tree frogs are found here.

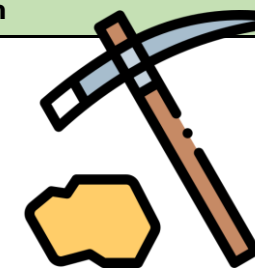
Forest Floor

There are very few plants at this layer as there is almost no sunlight. Leaves decompose very quickly. Gorillas, anteaters and leopards are found here.



Causes of Deforestation

- Commercial farming- selling crops for a profit.
- Logging- cutting down trees for wood.
- Population- land being cleared for houses.
- Roads- farmers, loggers and miners need access so build roads.
- Mineral extraction- removal of minerals like gold from the earth.



Effects of Deforestation

- Fewer plant and animal species
- Loss of habitats for animals
- Loss of sources of medicine
- Soil erosion which can lead to flooding
- Global warming and rising sea levels
- Selling land raises money for local people
- Jobs are created in different areas.

South America

Made up of 12 countries	The longest mountain chain in the world (Andes) is located in Brazil.
, Mostly located in the southern hemisphere	The world's highest waterfall (Angel Falls) is located in Venezuela.
Deforestation is a major issue in the Amazon rainforest	It is home to the world's 2 nd longest river (the Amazon) located mostly in Brazil.
The Amazon rainforest spans 9 countries	The largest rainforest in the world (the Amazon) is found in South America.

The Amazon Rainforest

- Parts are found in 9 different South American countries, including Brazil.
- Covers 5.5 million square km.
- 2 million tourists every year.
- 2,000 + species of birds and mammals
- 2.5 million insect species
- 40,000+ plant species
- 3,000 edible fruits
- World's largest rainforest
- Home to the Amazon river
- Home to 250,000 native tribes