

Rainforests

Curriculum Links:

Locational knowledge

Place knowledge

Geographical skills and fieldwork

* See coverage documents for more information

Key Facts:

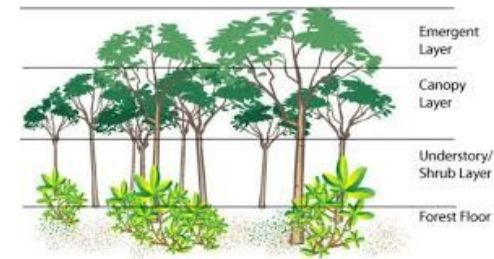
- Biomes are natural occurring areas of land with specific features. Some of the main biomes are: tundra, desert, grasslands and tropical rainforest
- Rainforests are the oldest ecosystems on the Earth and are home to millions of people, animals and plants
- Tropical rainforests are found near the equator. There is an enormous amount of rain and heat which means conditions are humid and damp. They cover only 6% of the Earth's surface however up to 50% of the world's plants and animal species live in them
- Temperate rainforests are found along coastlines. They are cooler and receive far less rain.
- Tropical rainforests are made up of four layers: the forest floor, understorey, canopy and emergent layer
- Deforestation is used to clear space for farming, wood, build roads, dig for oil and flood to make dams, however, it has effects on climate change and the Earth's atmosphere
- South America is a continent and the Amazon Rainforest is located there. It spans across the countries of: Brazil, Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, Venezuela, Guyana and Suriname and French Guiana
- The Amazon is the largest tropical rainforest, it covers the basin of the Amazon River.

Key Skills:

- Use atlases, maps and aerial photos to identify rainforests and explain what they are like
- Label maps to show South America, the key features and where rainforests are located
- Make comparisons between South America and the UK
- Compare rainfall in different climate zones and represent this using charts and graphs
- Explore how deforestation, climate change and pollution effect the rainforest and the Earth

Possible experiences: We should already know:

- Wingham rainforest SOS visit
- Create model rainforests to show layers
- Zoolab workshop
- There are seven continents and five oceans
- How to use and draw simple maps
- Different parts of the world have different habitats and climate zones



Key Vocabulary

Amazon basin	The area of South America in which rainfall will run into the Amazon river
Biome	A natural area of the living world which has its own climate, vegetation and animals
Climate	The weather and temperature found in an area
Climate zone	Sections of the Earth divided according to climate. The main ones are: polar, temperate and tropical
Deforestation	The act of clearing a large area of trees
Ecosystem	A community of animals and plants which depend on each other to survive
Equator	An imaginary line around the centre of the Earth
Humid	A high level of water vapour in the air
Pollution	The process of polluting water, air or land
Species	A group of living organisms which have similar characteristics
Vegetation	Plants, trees and flowers