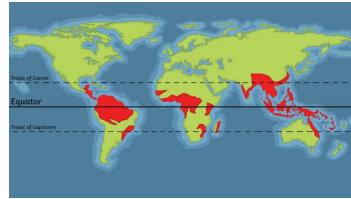
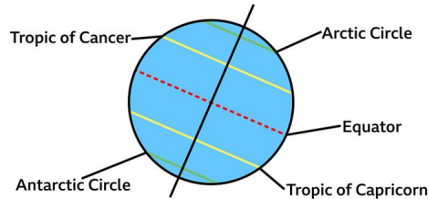


Tropical Rainforests Knowledge Organiser

Where in the world are Tropical Rainforests found?

Most of the world's rainforests are between the two tropics. These are known as tropical rainforests. Temperate rainforests are found close to oceans, in places that have heavy rainfall.



Tropical rainforests are found in: South America (e.g. Brazil, Venezuela, Colombia); Africa (e.g. Angola, the Ivory Coast, the Democratic Republic of the Congo); Asia (e.g. Indonesia, Thailand, Cambodia); Oceania (e.g. Australia, Papua New Guinea).

Deforestation

Deforestation is when trees in forests are cut down to clear land for growing crops, keeping animals or for timber. Large areas of tropical rainforests are being cleared.

Why is this a problem?

Only 6% of the world is made up of rainforests, but they are home to more than 50% of the world's plants and animals.

Trees help absorb the harmful carbon dioxide that we humans release in the atmosphere and they provide the oxygen that we need to breathe.

They soak up a lot of rainfall. The rainwater is filtered through the forest floors and supplies water to rivers and irrigation systems.

They also help prevent erosion, where the soil is washed away causing blockages that in turn causes floods.

They are home to indigenous people. Many tribes still live in the rainforests.

More than 25% of our medicines today come from rainforest plants.

Tropics - the area on Earth's surface that is closest to the Equator.

Equator - the imaginary line that goes round the Earth at the exact midpoint between the North and South pole.

Deforestation - where trees are cut down to make room for crops, animals or to provide timber.

Vocabulary

Emergent layer - the top layer that receives lots of rain and sun.

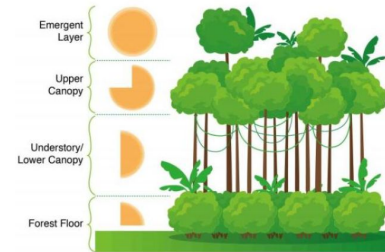
Upper canopy - made up of overlapping leaves and branches.

Understory - the layer of younger trees which are still growing.

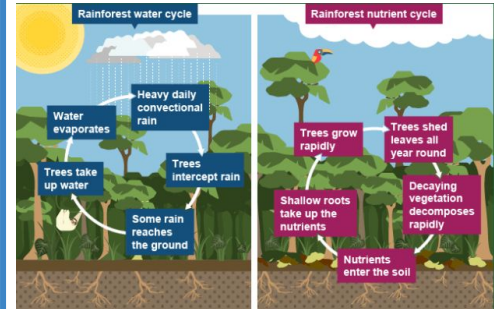
Forest floor - the bottom level of the rainforest.

What are the layers of a tropical rainforest called?

Rainforest Layers of Vegetation



The Rainforest Water Cycle



Climate - the weather conditions in a geographical area.

Biomes - areas on the planet with similar climate, landscape, animals and plants.

Rainforest - a tall, dense forest that receives lots of rain every year.

Biodiversity - all the different kinds of life found in one area.