

Rainforests – Knowledge Organiser Years 5

Geography



Many of the world's rainforests are in south and central America. There are also some rainforests in south east Asia and Australasia

Questions to consider:

What is so special about a rainforest and how does it differ from other areas you know about? How has the Amazon rainforest changed due to human activity? What are the human and physical features of a rainforest?

Key Vocabulary:

Deforestation – the destruction of trees over large areas

Ecosystem – A community of plants and animals that depend on each other to survive

Endangered – a species that has been categorised as very likely to become extinct

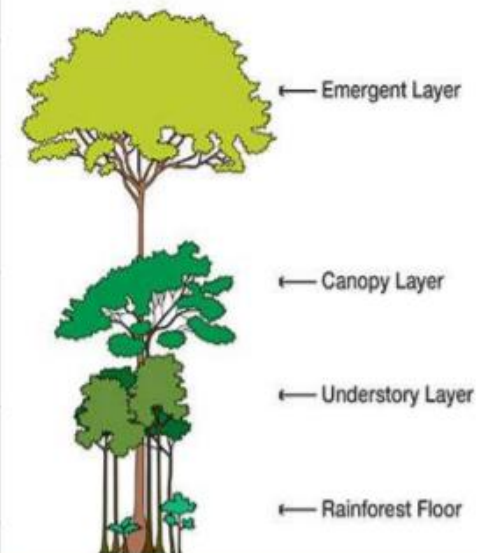
Extinction – the extinction of a species of animal or plant is the death of all its remaining living members

Biodiversity – variety of plant and animal life in a particular habitat a high level of which is usually considered to be important

Climate – the weather and temperature found in a particular area

Humidity – the level of moisture in the air

Rainforest Layers



Emergent layer -- the tops of trees that poke up above the rainforest canopy. It is very sunny here and is home to birds, butterflies and bats.

Canopy layer – a dense layer of trees overlapping each other. Home to most animals in rainforests.

Understorey layer -- a tangle of shrubs, young trees and vines. It is hot and damp here and the air is very still.

Rainforest Floor – mainly consisting of fallen leaves, fruit etc. that decomposes as food for trees.

