

Rainforest

How would you survive in the rainforest?



WINDHILL PRIMARY SCHOOL

LKS2 - Autumn

Key Facts

- A rainforest is an area of tall, mostly evergreen trees that receives a high amount of rainfall.
- There are two different types of rainforests: temperate and tropical.
- Tropical rainforests are found north and south of the Equator between the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn.
- The Amazon is the world's largest tropical rainforest (2,100,000 square miles).
- The trees of the Amazon Rainforest produce more than 20% of the world's oxygen.
- Rainforests are home to over half the species of plants and animals in the world.
- Around 80% of the food we eat originally came from rainforests e.g. coffee, chocolate, rice and bananas.



Layers of a Rainforest

Tropical rainforests contain an enormous variety of plants and animals – approximately 90 per cent of all of the world's species. Vegetation is dense and occurs in four main layers.

Layers of the Rainforest

Emergent Layer

Consists of the tallest trees, some birds, and insects. No animals live here

Canopy Layer

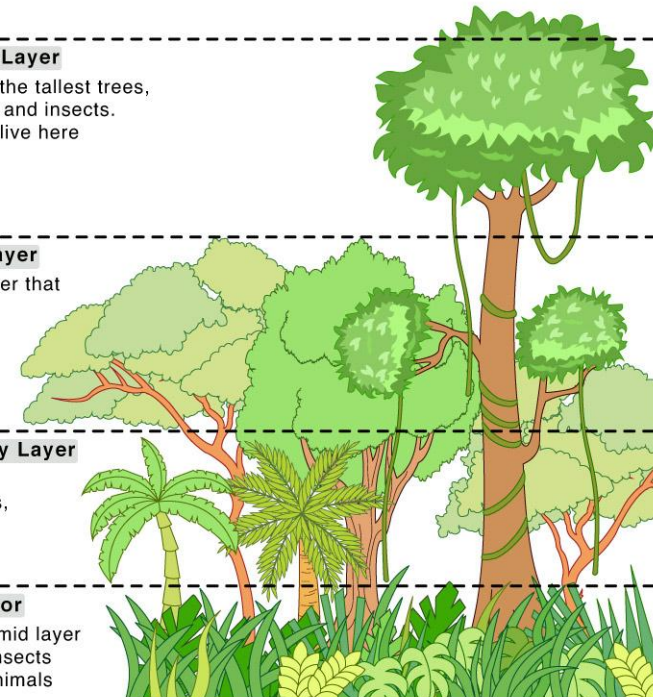
Thickest layer that hosts most flora and fauna

Understory Layer

Consists of young herbs, shrubs, and bushes

Forest Floor

Darkest, humid layer that hosts insects and giant animals



The Amazon Rainforest

- The Amazon is the world's largest tropical rainforest. Covering over 5.5 million square kilometres, it's so big that the UK and Ireland would fit into it 17 times!
- The Amazon is found in South America, spanning across Brazil, Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, Venezuela, Guyana, Suriname and French Guiana.
- Running through the north of the rainforest is the Amazon River.
- The Amazon has an incredibly rich ecosystem – there are around 40,000 plant species, 1,300 bird species, 3,000 types of fish, 430 mammals and a whopping 2.5 million different insects.



How do humans use the rainforest?

Humans and the rainforest are connected in many ways:

- Humans rely on the rainforest for resources like food, medicine, and wood, but our actions like logging and farming cause deforestation, which harms the environment and the species living there.
- Rainforests are vital for the planet because they produce oxygen and absorb carbon dioxide, helping to stabilize the climate, and some of the products we use every day come from them.

Key Vocabulary

Latitude	Horizontal imaginary lines on a globe that measures how far north or south a place is from the equator.
Longitude	Vertical imaginary lines on a globe that run from each pole to measure how far east or west a place is from the Prime Meridian.
Equator	A horizontal line that runs around the centre of the Earth dividing the Northern and Southern Hemisphere.
Hemisphere	The Northern and Southern Hemispheres are the two parts of the globe that are above and below the equator.
Tropic of Cancer	An imaginary line that sits 23.5° to the north of the equator. The northernmost area where the sun can shine down at noon.
Tropic of Capricorn	An imaginary line that sits 23.5° to the south of the equator. The southernmost area where the sun can shine down at noon.
Arctic & Antarctic Circle	Imaginary lines of latitude that are north and south of the equator that mark the boundaries of the polar regions. Arctic – North Antarctic – South
Biome	A large area of the world with a similar climate, plants (flora) & animals (fauna).
Boreal rainforest	Large forests in northern parts of the world (Canada, Alaska & Russia). Features: cold winters, lots of snow, short cold summers. Mostly conifer trees.
Temperate rainforest	Forests in regions with four distinct seasons. Warm summers; cold winters; Rainy springs. Trees tend to loose there leaves.
Tropical rainforest	Forests that are warm, wet and humid. Tend to closer to the equator. They are full of plant and animal life.
Ecosystem	A special natural home where plants, animals and other living things (bugs & bacteria) live and work together.
Vegetation	The plant life of a particular area, including trees, shrubs and grasses.



How would you survive in the rainforest?