

# Knowledge Organiser

## Rainforests of the World



## The Amazon Rainforest



## Facts about Rainforests

Rainforests cover approximately 6% of the Earth's surface and contain more than 50% of the world's plants. About 90% of organisms are found in the canopy.

About 30 million species of plants and animals live in tropical rainforests.

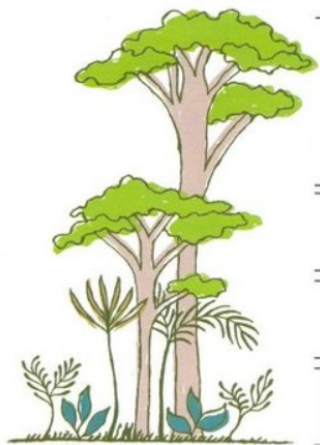
There are two types of rainforest- Tropical and Temperate. Tropical rainforests are generally warmer than temperate ones.

Many things we have in our homes come from rainforests including: chocolate, sugar, rubber, bamboo and many medicines.

## Geographical Vocabulary

Rainforest	A dense forest, normally found in tropical areas with high rainfall. They generate much of the world's oxygen.
Country	A nation with its own government e.g. UK, USA, Brazil.
Continent	The world's main pieces of land (Africa, Asia, Australasia, Europe, North America, South America, Antarctica.)
Ecosystem	A community of plants and animals that depend on each other to survive.
Deforestation	The action of clearing a wide area of trees.
Habitat	The natural home or environment of an animal, plant or organism.
Interdependent	When two or more people or things rely on each other.

## Layers of the Rainforest



**The Emergent Layer**

Giant trees that enjoy most of the sun but experience high winds.

**The Canopy**

Dense layer of trees overlapping each other. Home to most animals.

**The Understory**

Dark, open area below the canopy.

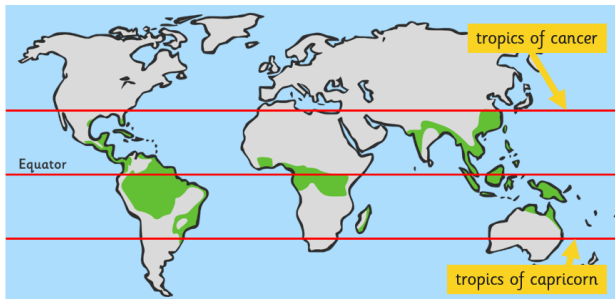
**The Forest Floor**

Mainly consisting of fallen leaves and fruit that decompose and become food for the trees.



## Deforestation

## Rainforest Climates



Climate is the usual or average weather conditions over a long period of time.

Weather is the specific condition on a given day (which may or may not be typical for a climate).

Rainforests are found between the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn.

There are no seasons - the climate is the same all year round.

Every month has an average rainfall of at least 6cm..

Temperatures are hot and humid all year round.

It usually rains every day.

## Causes of Deforestation

To clear space for farming, growing crops and having cattle farms to generate beef.

Chopping down trees for wood,

To build roads to mine for metals, gold and diamonds,

To dig for oil.

To flood areas to make dams and generate electricity.

## Impact of Deforestation

An area the size of 20 football pitches is destroyed every 60 seconds.

28,000 species of animals are expected to become extinct in the next 25 years.

Local people's homes are being destroyed.

Levels of carbon dioxide in the air are increasing and oxygen is decreasing.