

Geography Topic : Rainforest

Year 5

Terms 1, 2 and 3

Key Knowledge

Equator	Imaginary line through the middle of the Earth that receives the most sunlight.
Tropic of Cancer	Imaginary lines north and south of the equator.
Tropic of Capricorn	Most rainforests can be found between these two lines.
Emergent Layer	The tallest layer of the rainforest. The trees can be up to 150 feet tall.
Canopy	Dense layer of trees overlapping each other. Home to most animals in rainforests.
Understory	Relatively dark, open area below the canopy.
Undergrowth	Also known as the forest floor, mainly consisting of fallen leaves, fruit etc. that decomposes as food for trees.

Causes of deforestation

- To clear space for farming
- 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

- The area the size of 20 football pitches is destroyed every 20 seconds
- 28000 species of animals are expected to become extinct in the next 25 years
- Local people's homes are destroyed
- Levels of oxygen is decreasing

Tribes of the rainforest

People who live in the rainforest. They live a traditional way of life. Their food, medicines and clothing come primarily from the rainforest.

Key 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, Germany
Continent	The world's main continuous 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.
Climate	The different weather conditions of an area over a long period of time

Know how to...

Explain why the rainforests are under threat

Explain the impact of deforestation

Locate rainforests on a map

Explain how people can both improve and damage the environment

Suggest explanations for the ways in which human activities cause changes to the environment and the different views people hold about them.

Identify the position and significance of the equator, the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn

