

Previous knowledge: What should I already know?

- The names of the world's seven continents and five oceans.
- How to use a map, an atlas or a globe to identify geographical features such as continents, countries, oceans, rivers and mountains.
- Identify the features of a river and understand how humans and environmental changes can affect them.

Key knowledge: What should I know by the end of the unit?

- By the end of this unit we will:
- Know where many of the world's rainforests are situated
 - Understand the main features of a rainforest
 - Be able to use the terms emergent layer, canopy, understory and forest floor
 - Know about endangered animals in the rainforests
 - Understand deforestation and arguments for and against
 - Locate the Amazon and know about some unique plants that are found there

Key facts / information



The Amazon Rainforest Situated in South America, it is the largest rainforest in the world. The Amazon rainforest spreads across nine different countries. The Amazon River - the second longest river in the world at 7000km - runs through it.



What lives in the Amazon rainforest?
 40,000 species of plants
 2,400 species of freshwater fish
 370 species of reptile
 2.5 million species of insects

Vocabulary

biome A large area of the Earth that has a certain climate and certain types of living things. A rainforest is an example of a type of biome.

canopy A dense leafy layer with trees about 40m tall where the majority of life in the rainforest is found.

climate The weather in a certain place. The climate determines which plants and animals can survive there.

conservation The protection of things found in nature so that they will be around in the future.

deforestation The action of clearing a wide area of trees.

ecosystem A community of organisms (living things) that interact with one another and with their physical environment.

emergent layer This is made up of the tallest trees in the rainforest (some up to 70m tall). Their huge leafy crowns spread out to catch as much sunlight as possible.

endangered A type of plant or animal that is in danger of disappearing forever. If it dies out completely, it becomes extinct.

equator An imaginary circle around the Earth that divides it into two equal parts - the Northern Hemisphere and the Southern Hemisphere.

forest floor This is the lowest part of the rainforest and is like a carpet of dead leaves. It is dim and shady and so fewer plants grow here.

humid Feeling very damp due to water vapour (a gas) in the air.

indigenous People that are native to a certain place. They are the first people who lived there.

nocturnal An animal that is active at night and sleeps during the day.

species A group of animals or plants that are similar to one another.

tropical A place that is warm all year round and has rainy seasons. These places are close to the equator.

understory It is full of leafy bushes and small trees entwined with vines. It is dark and hot. Many of the animals living here are nocturnal.

vegetation All the plants and trees that live in an area.

[illegible]

