



Features of the Rainforest

'Should we be cutting down trees in the Rainforest?'

Key Facts

Found on every continent except Antarctica, rainforests are home to half of the world's plants and animals. Amazon rainforest is the world's largest tropical rainforest. If it were a country, it would be the ninth largest in the world. There are some tribes living in rainforest that have not yet had any contact with civilization. An area of rainforest the size of a football field is destroyed each second.

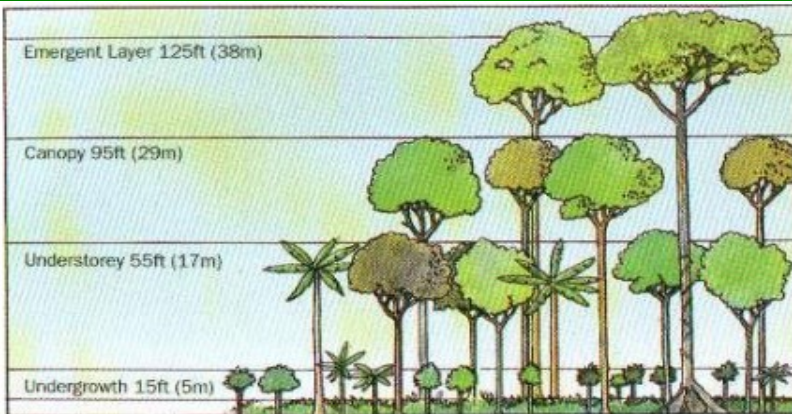
Map of Rainforests in the World



Key Vocabulary

Emergent layer	Top layer inhabited by the largest of trees, home to some of the forest's flying fauna
Canopy	Consists of tops of closely spaced trees that grow from 60 to 90 feet. The crown of each tree almost touches the next, forming a mass of leaves and branches preventing sunlight from reaching lower layers.
Understorey	Consists of trunks of the canopy trees, young trees, shrubs, ferns and smaller trees that like dim light. Animals that like shady wet habitats live in the understorey
Forest floor	Ground of the forest where little sunlight penetrates and vegetation is sparse
biodiversity	Variety of plant and animal life in the world or a particular place.
biome	A natural area of vegetation and animals the
climate change	Changes in the earth's climate, especially the gradual rise in temperature, as a result of human activity
climate zone	Sections of the Earth that are divided according to the climate
deforestation	All the trees there are cut down
distribution	Delivering goods to a number of places
economy	A country's economy is the wealth that it gets from business and industry
equator	An imaginary line around the middle of the Earth.
export	To export products or raw materials means to sell them to another country
import	To import products or raw materials means to buy them from another country for use in your own country
global	Something that happens in all parts of the world or affects all parts of the world
world natural resources	Land, forests, energy sources and minerals existing naturally in a place that can be used.
palm oil	A yellow oil which comes from the fruit of certain palm trees and is used in making soap and sometimes as a fat in cooking
pollution	The process of polluting water, air, or land, especially with poisonous chemicals
supply chain	The process of making and selling goods, including supply of materials, manufacture of the goods through to their distribution and sale.
sustainability	To maintain at a steady level without exhausting natural resources or causing severe environmental damage.
trade	The activity of buying, selling, or exchanging goods or services
trade route	A route, often covering long distances, that is used by traders
tropics	Parts of the world that lie between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn. The tropics have a humid climate, where the weather is hot and damp.
vegetation	plants, trees and flowers

Layers of the Rainforest



Recommended websites

<https://www.natgeokids.com/uk/discover/geography/physical-geography/15-cool-things-about-rainforests/>

<http://www.primaryhomeworkhelp.co.uk/rainforest.html>

More Key Facts

Most plants do not send their roots deep into the earth but grow them along the ground drawing nourishments from the material on the floor. Rainforests used to cover 14% of the area of the earth, but now only cover 6%. There are many large rivers in rainforest areas due to high rainfall. A quarter of our medicines come from rainforest plants and it is thought that there are many more potential medicines that could come from rainforest plants that have yet to be identified. Tropical rainforests have pretty much the same weather every day. They are near to the equator so it is hot all year round. They experience heavy rainfall throughout most of the year. Many animals in the rainforests face the threat of extinction as they are losing their habitats due to deforestation and trading.