

RAINFORESTS

Prior learning: Children have already learned about the main continents of the World, as well as the Equator and Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn. Children have learnt about the water cycle in Year 4.



Rainforests of the World Map



Key Facts about Rainforests

Rainforests are often called the 'lungs of the world' as it is estimated that rainforests generate 20% of the world's oxygen.

Although rainforests only take up 6% of the Earth's surface, over half of all plants are found in the rainforest.

Due to their position on Earth, there is sun over the rainforests all year round, so the rainforests do not experience seasons. They are warm and wet all year round.

The largest rainforest in the world is the Amazon rainforest in South America.

There are hundreds of thousands of animal species living in the rainforest. Most of these live in the canopy layer.

The soil is extremely fragile in rainforests. The top layer of soil is only very thin and is easily eroded by rain. The leaves in the upper layers of the rainforest protect the soil from erosion by the rain.

Rainforests are being cut down for a number of reasons: clearing land for farming—crops and cattle; chopping down trees for wood; to build roads to mine for metals, gold or diamonds; to dig for oil; to flood areas to build dams to generate electricity.

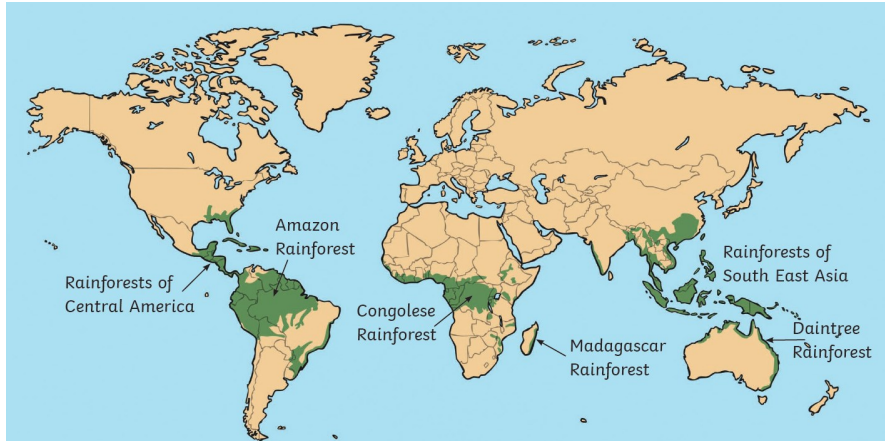


Vocabulary

Climate	The weather conditions in an area	Habitat	The natural habitat of a plant, animal or other organism
		Indigenous	Originating or occurring naturally in a particular place
Deforestation	The action of clearing a large area of trees	Soil erosion	When the top layer of soil—the most fertile—is worn or swept away
Ecosystem	A community of plants and animals that depend on each other to survive	Species	A group of living organisms that are similar to each other and capable of breeding with each other
Epiphytes	Plants that grow on other plants, most commonly trees	Tropics	The region between the lines of latitude either side of the Equator

RAINFORESTS

Can your partner name the main rainforests in the world?



Can your partner name the layers of the rainforest? Can they tell you a little bit about each layer?



Test your partner



Key Questions about Rainforests

How much of the world's oxygen is it estimated that rainforests generate? 20% of the world's oxygen.

How much of the Earth's surface do rainforests take up? 6% of the Earth's surface.

How many species of plants can be found in rainforests? Over half of all plants are found in the rainforest.

What is the weather like in the rainforest? The rainforests do not experience seasons. They are warm and wet all year round.

What is the largest rainforest in the world? The Amazon rainforest in South America.

How many animal species live in the rainforest? Which part do they live in? There are hundreds of thousands of animal species living in the rainforest. Most of these live in the canopy layer.

Can you tell me about the soil? The soil is extremely fragile in rainforests. The top layer of soil is only very thin and is easily eroded by rain. The leaves in the upper layers of the rainforest protect the soil from erosion by the rain.

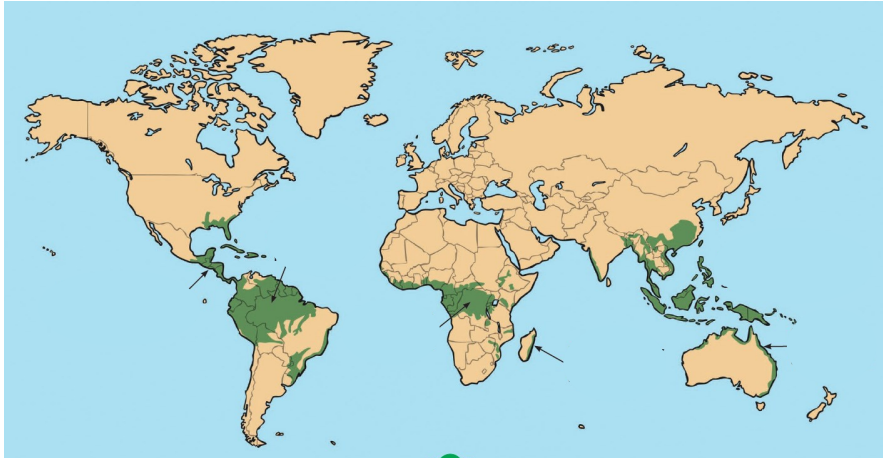
Why are rainforests being cut down? Clearing land for farming—crops and cattle; chopping down trees for wood; to build roads to mine for metals, gold or diamonds; to dig for oil; to flood areas to build dams to generate electricity.

Test your partner on these words:

Climate	The weather conditions in an area	Habitat	The natural habitat of a plant, animal or other organism
		Indigenous	Originating or occurring naturally in a particular place
Deforestation	The action of clearing a large area of trees	Soil erosion	When the top layer of soil—the most fertile—is worn or swept away
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Label the rainforests



Label the layers



Fill in the blanks



Key Facts about Rainforests

Rainforests are often called the _____ as it is estimated that rainforests generate _____ of the world's oxygen.

Although rainforests only take up _____ of the Earth's surface, _____ of all plants are found in the rainforest.

Due to their position on Earth, there is sun over the rainforests all year round, so the rainforests do not experience _____. They are _____ all year round.

The largest rainforest in the world is _____ in _____.

There are hundreds of thousands of _____ living in the rainforest. Most of these live in the _____.

The soil is extremely _____ in rainforests. The top layer of soil is only very thin and is easily _____ by rain. The leaves in the _____ of the rainforest protect the soil from _____.

Rainforests are being cut down for a number of reasons: clearing land for _____; chopping down trees for _____; to build _____ to mine for metals, gold or diamonds; to dig for _____; to flood areas to build _____.

Fill in the word:

	The weather conditions in an area
	The action of clearing a large area of trees
	A community of plants and animals that depend on each other to survive
	Plants that grow on other plants, most commonly trees

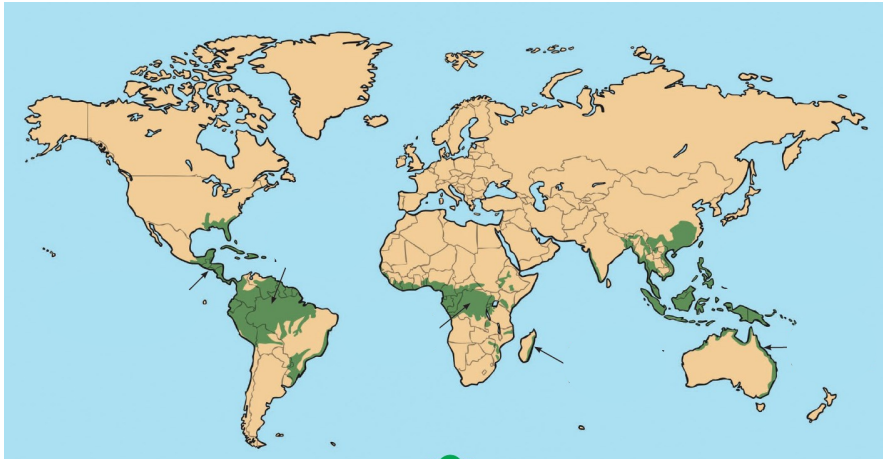
	The natural habitat of a plant, animal or other organism
	Originating or occurring naturally in a particular place
	When the top layer of soil—the most fertile—is worn or swept away
	A group of living organisms that are similar to each other and capable of breeding with each other
	The region between the lines of latitude either side of the Equator

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Fill in the blanks



Label the rainforests



Label the layers



Key Facts about Rainforests

Rainforests are often called the _____ as it is estimated that rainforests generate _____.

Although rainforests only take up _____ of the Earth's surface, _____ are found in the rainforest.

Due to their position on Earth, there is sun over the rainforests _____, so the rainforests do not experience _____. They are _____ all year.

The largest rainforest in the world is _____ in _____.

There are hundreds of thousands of _____ living in the rainforest. Most of these live in the _____.

The soil is extremely _____ in rainforests. The top layer of soil is only _____ and is easily _____. The leaves in the _____ of the rainforest protect the soil from _____.

Rainforests are being cut down for a number of reasons. These include: _____

Fill in the definitions:

Climate	
Deforestation	
Ecosystem	
Epiphytes	

Habitat	
Indigenous	
Soil erosion	
Species	
Tropics	