



Geography – The Rainforests



Year 3
Autumn Term

Key Learning

Rainforests of Central America; Amazon Rainforest in South America; Congolese Rainforest in Western/Central Africa; Madagascan Rainforest in Madagascar; Rainforests of South East Asia in Sri Lanka, Vietnam, Thailand and The Philippines; Daintree Rainforest in Eastern Australia.



The equator is the line that runs horizontally around the world separating the northern and southern hemispheres. The Tropic of Cancer runs north of the equator and the Tropic of Capricorn to the South.



There are 4 main layers of vegetation in the rainforest: emergent, canopy, understory and the forest floor. Each of these have different animals that live in them. Because of the number of trees in the rainforest; they are known as 'The Lungs of the Earth'.



A lot of the food that we eat is grown in and around the rainforests. Many of the people who grow this food are poorly paid and treated. In order to try and improve the price that they get for what they grow and to improve their working conditions; an organisation called 'Fair Trade' has been set up.



Over the past 40 years, huge areas of the rainforest have been destroyed in a process called 'deforestation'. This has been done to create space for large cattle ranches; to meet the world's demands for paper, wood and palm oil; to build new roads and settlements. The impacts of this is that the land is becoming more like a desert and habitats are being destroyed.

Key Vocabulary

Biome	An area classified according to the species that live in that location.
Equator	The line of latitude that separates the northern and southern hemispheres.
Climate	The average weather conditions in a certain place.
Rainforest	An area of tall, mostly evergreen trees and a high amount of rainfall.
Emergent layer	These are the very tallest trees in the rainforest and can reach heights of 70m.
Canopy Layer	These trees form a roof over the rainforest with their interlocking branches, making it difficult for sunlight to get through.
Understory	The warm, damp and sheltered layer below the canopy.
Forest floor	The lowest layer of the rainforest where it is dark, hot and damp.
Adaptations	The way that animals and plants change to survive in their habitat.
Fair Trade	An agreement that allows growers in developing countries to get a fair price for their products and better working standards
Deforestation	Forests being cut down, mainly for commercial reasons.
Habitat	Where a species lives.