

There are 2 types of rainforest, tropical and temperate. Tropical rainforests are generally warmer than temperate ones.

Rainforests

Do you have the skills to survive the rainforest?

Rainforests cover approximately 6% of the Earth's surface.

Most rainforests can be found near the equator.

Key Vocabulary

Rainforest	Dense forest normally found in tropical areas with high rainfall. They generate much of the world's oxygen.
Continent	The world's main continuous pieces of land (Africa, Asia, Australasia, Europe, North America, South America, Antarctica).
Deforestation	The action of clearing a wide area of trees.
Ecosystem	A community of plants and animals that depend on each other to survive.
Endangered	A species seriously at risk of extinction
Equator	Imaginary line through the middle of the Earth that receives the most sunlight.
Habitat	The natural home or environment of an animal, plant or organism.
Tropical	A damp climate that is warm all year round
Temperate	A climate with 4 seasons; warm in summer and cold in winter.

Flora - Plants

Epiphytes - live on other plants and have no ground roots

Bromeliads - Flowering plants with leaves in a rosette shape.

Orchids



Palm Trees

Amazon Water lily - can grow up to 3m in diameter

Rubber Tree



Bougainvillea

Kapok Tree

Fauna - Animals

Mammals

- Capybara
- Chimpanzee
- Western Gorilla
- Jaguar
- Gibbon
- Lemur
- Okapi
- Orangutan
- Siamung
- Spider monkey



Birds

- Great Hornbill
- Harpy Eagle
- Hoatzin
- Scarlet Macaw
- Toucan



Reptiles

- Anaconda
- Caiman
- Boa Constrictor
- Viper
- Python



Amphibians

- Poison dart frog
- Red-Eyed tree frog

Many insects

Physical Features

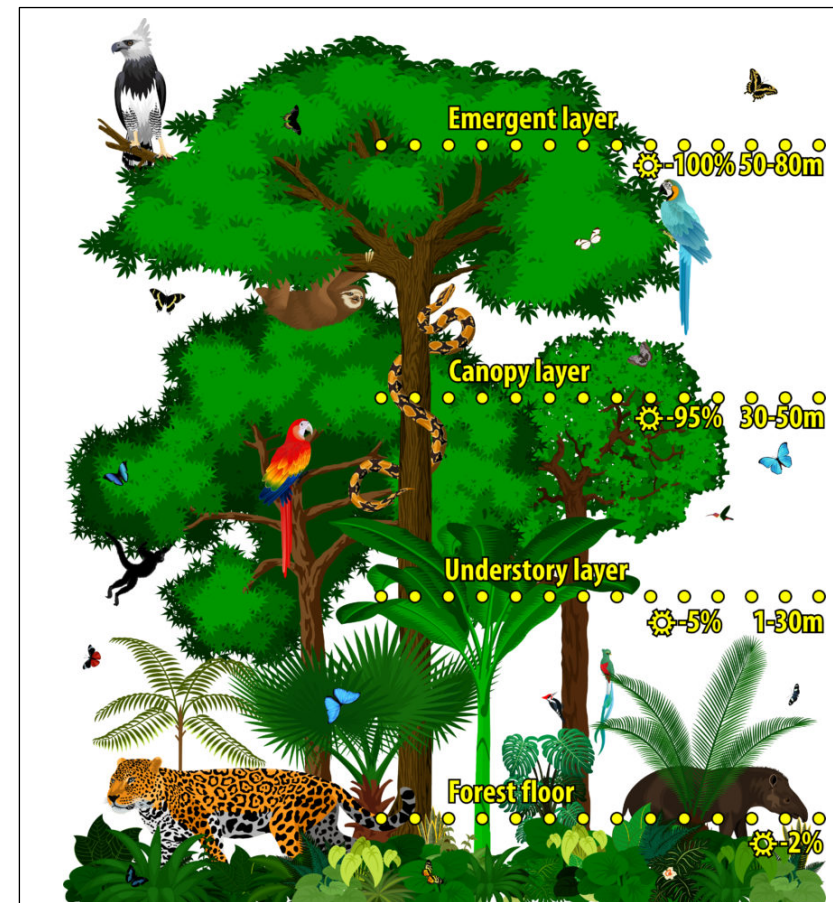
Canopy	Dense layer of trees overlapping each other. Home to most animals in rainforests.
Emergent layer	Giant trees that enjoy the most sun but high winds & cold.
Tropic of Cancer and Capricorn	Imaginary lines north and south of the equator. Most rainforests can be found between these two lines.
Understory	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 and space cattle out to generate cheap beef.
- Chopping down trees for wood.
- To build roads for mines (metal, gold and diamonds).
- To dig for oil.
- To flood areas to make dams and make electricity.

Impact of Deforestation

- An area the size of 20 football pitches is destroyed every 20 seconds
- Half the tropical rainforests we had have gone
- 29,000 rainforest species are expected to become extinct in the next 25 years.
- Local people's homes are being destroyed.
- Levels of carbon dioxide in the air are increasing.



FACTS

About 30 million species of plants and animals live in tropical rainforests.

Many things we have in our homes come from rainforests including; chocolate, sugar, rubber, bamboo and many medicines.

Rainforests contain more than 1/2 of the world's plants. About 90% of organisms are found in the canopy.