

**Unit Title:**  
**What are rainforests and where can we find them?**

**What should I know?**

- The 7 continents are North America, South America, Antarctica, Europe, Asia, Africa, and Australia.
- The 5 oceans are the Atlantic Ocean, the Indian Ocean, the Pacific Ocean, the Southern Ocean, and the Arctic Ocean
- The Amazon River is located in South America and flows through Ecuador, Colombia, Venezuela, Bolivia, and Brazil
- The Amazon Rainforest is a large tropical rainforest occupying the drainage basin of the Amazon River and its tributaries
- The Amazon is home to more species of plants and animals than any other terrestrial ecosystem on the planet
- The rainforest is divided into different layers

**Key Knowledge**

- The Equator is at the centre of the lines of latitude and is at 0° latitude. Anything lying south of the Equator is in the Southern Hemisphere and is labelled 'S'. Anything lying north of the Equator is in the Northern Hemisphere and is labelled 'N'
- Latitude and longitude is the coordinate system used to find the position or location of any place on Earth's surface
- Tropical rainforests are mainly located between the latitudes of 23.5°N (the Tropic of Cancer) and 23.5°S (the Tropic of Capricorn)—the tropics. Tropical rainforests are found in Central and South America, western and central Africa, western India, Southeast Asia, the island of New Guinea, and Australia.
- The Nile is the longest river in the world and the Amazon is the second longest but is the largest by discharge volume
- Tropical rainforests are lush and warm all year long! This area does not experience seasons, because the sun is always high in the sky. Temperatures don't even change much between night and day.
- Rainfall in the tropics can vary. In some places, there is very little rain, some areas have a rainy seasons and some places have lots of rain all year round
- Most rainforests are structured in four layers: emergent, canopy, understory, and forest floor. Each layer has unique characteristics based on differing levels of water, sunlight, and air circulation.
- A biome is a natural area of plants and animals. The world is divided into lots of different biomes and they are all different depending on their climate
- Some of the main biomes are aquatic, desert, forest, grasslands, tropical rainforests and tundra.



**Key Vocabulary**

- Equator
- Northern and Southern Hemispheres
- Latitude
- Longitude
- Coordinates
- Tropic Cancer
- Tropic of Capricorn
- Climate zones
- Tropical rainforest
- Emergent
- Canopy
- Vegetation zones
- Ecosystem
- Biomes

**What should I know by the end of the unit?**

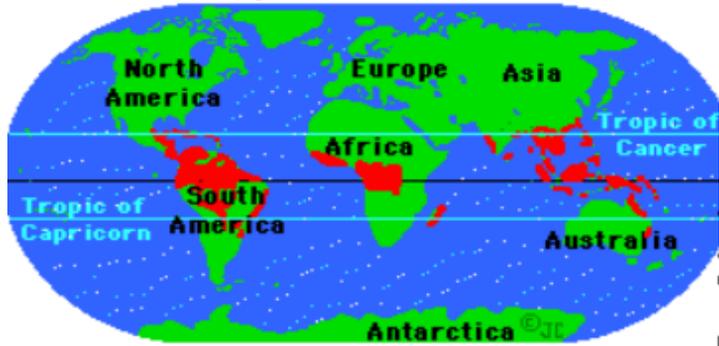
- The position and significance of latitude, longitude, Equator, Northern Hemisphere, Southern Hemisphere, the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn
- The location the World's major rivers
- Continents and countries that contain rainforests
- Rainforest layers and some of the animals that live there
- The importance of tropical rainforest and how deforestation affects this ecosystem
- The location the world's major biomes

- Different types of biomes
- How we can protect biomes like tropic rainforests

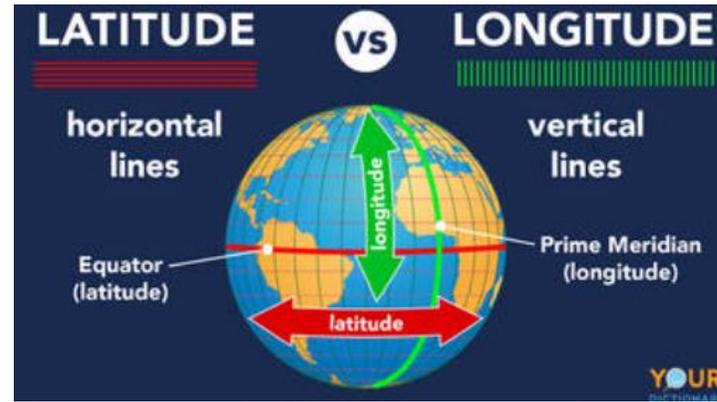
**Making Links - Remember when you....**

- Learnt about South American and the Amazon River and Rainforest
- Learnt about oceans and continents in our topic Deadly animals

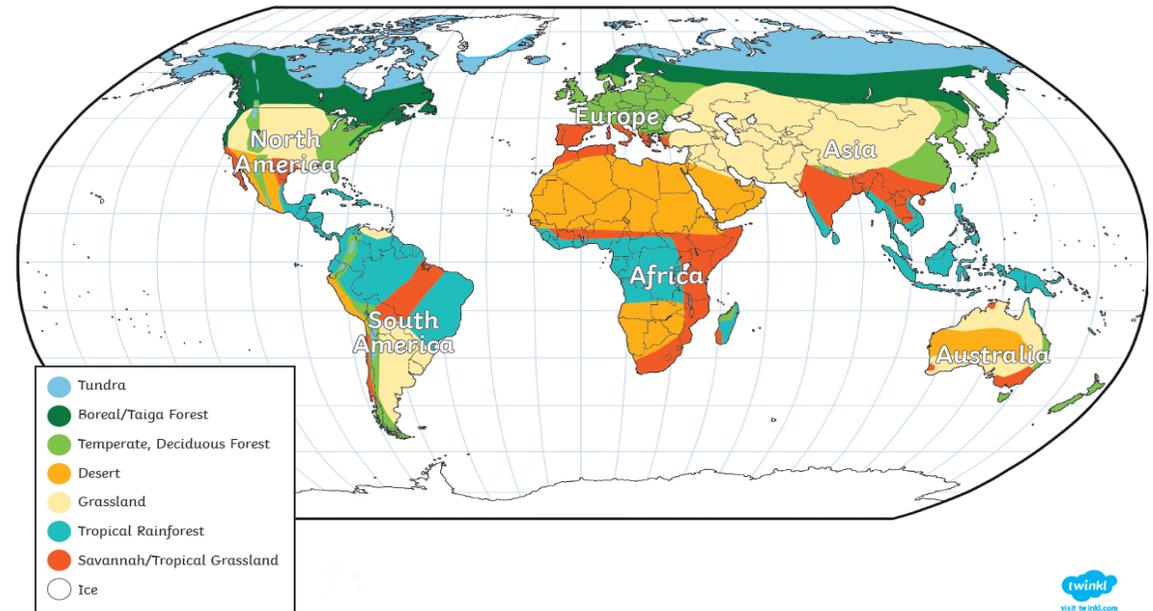
## Tropical Rainforests



Tropical rainforests are pictured in red



## World Biomes Map



### Layers of the Rainforest

**EMERGENTS**  
Giant trees that stick out above the canopy. They are much taller than average canopy trees. Many birds and insects live here.

**CANOPY**  
The upper level of the trees (leaves & upper limbs) that form the cover over the lower layers. Full of life, this layer is home to many insects, birds, reptiles, and mammals.

**UNDERSTORY**  
The cool, dark environment that is between the canopy & the ground.

**FOREST FLOOR**  
The ground layer of the rainforest, teeming with insect life and host to the biggest animals of the rainforest.

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Tropical Rainforest	Tropical Coniferous Rainforest	Tropical Dry Forest	Tropical Grasslands (Savannahs)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>South America, Africa and Southeast Asia</li> <li>Constantly warm</li> <li>No dry season</li> <li>Average 60mm rain per month</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>North &amp; Central America and Asia</li> <li>Steady temperatures all year round</li> <li>Low precipitation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mexico, Brazil, Southeast Asia and India</li> <li>Warm all year round</li> <li>Long dry seasons</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Africa, Asia, India and Australia</li> <li>Hot</li> <li>Dry season lasts up to 9 months</li> <li>900mm – 1500mm rain per year</li> </ul>