



Knowledge Organiser

Year 3: Rainforests

Tropical Rainforests are found on either side of the equator in South America, Central American, South East Asia and Northern Australia. The World's largest Rainforest (The Amazon) is found in South America.



Climate	Water	Soils	Plants	Animals
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> hot (20-28°C) Sun is overhead all year round so there is no seasonal variation. wet (2000mm per year) Convectional rainfall every day. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The roots of plants take up water from the ground. Rain is intercepted as it falls - much of it at the canopy level, this will evaporate as it heats up to form convectional rainfall. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rain washes away nutrients from soil. Soil is not very fertile. Humus layer of rotting leaf-fall is very thin (heat speeds up decomposition). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most trees are evergreen. Continual growing season. Five layers: forest floor, shrub layer, under-canopy, canopy (30m) and emergent. Epiphytes (plants that feed off other plants and take moisture from the air) e.g. ferns. Absorb CO2 and release oxygen. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Many species of animals live in the tropical rainforest. Food is plentiful and grows all year. Hundreds of different types of monkeys, snakes and birds. Thousands of insect species live in the tropical rainforest.

<u>Causes of Deforestation</u>	
1	To clear space for farming: growing crops (e.g. soya beans & palm oil) and space cattle to generate cheap beef.
2	Chopping down trees for wood.
3	To build roads to mine for metals, gold & diamonds.
4	To dig for oil.
5	To flood areas to make dams & generate electricity.

<u>Impact of Deforestation</u>	
1	An area the size of 20 football pitches is destroyed every 60 seconds.
2	1/3 of the tropical rainforests we had are gone.
3	28,000 species of animals are expected to become extinct in the next 25 years.
4	Local people's homes are destroyed.
5	Levels of carbon dioxide in the air are increasing and oxygen is decreasing.

Key Vocabulary

Rainforest	A dense forest, normally found in tropical areas with high rainfall. They generate much of the world's oxygen.
Country	A nation with its own government e.g. UK, USA, Germany, Denmark, Brazil, China.
Continent	The world's main continuous pieces of land (Africa, Asia, Australasia, Europe, North America, South America, Antarctica).
Eco system	A community of plants and animals that depend on each other to survive.
Deforestation	The action of clearing a wide area of trees.
Habitat	The natural home or environment of an animal, plant or organism.