

# Year 4 - Geography - Why are rainforests important to us?

**Geography - Why are rainforests important to us?**

**Map of the world's biomes**

**biome**  
An area of the world with a similar climate and landscape, where similar plants and animals live.

- Tundra
- Temperate deciduous forest
- Tropical rainforest
- Savannah
- Desert
- Boreal forest

**Tropic of Cancer**  
A line of latitude north of the Equator which marks the northernmost edge of the Earth's hottest regions.

**Equator**  
An invisible horizontal line that splits the world into two hemispheres.

**Tropic of Capricorn**  
A line of latitude south of the Equator which marks the southernmost edge of the Earth's hottest regions.

**Tropical rainforest**

**How have plants adapted in the Amazon rainforest?**

- Thin, smooth bark ensures rain can run off trees easily.
- Buttress roots keep tall trees stable in the wet soil and strong winds.
- Drip tips mean rain can run off leaves without damaging them.
- Lianas (vines) wind their way up other plants to reach sunlight.

**Map of the Amazon rainforest**

Guyana, Suriname, French Guiana, Columbia, Brazil, Peru, Bolivia

**Layers of the rainforest**

- emergent layer
- canopy layer
- understorey layer
- forest floor

**global warming**  
When our Earth's temperature rises because of greenhouse gases.

**mining**  
The process of digging underground for precious metals and stones.

**logging**  
The cutting down of trees for their wood.

**deforestation**  
The cutting down of trees in a large area.

<b>emergent layer</b>	The top layer of the rainforest with the tallest trees that get lots of sunlight, rain and wind.
<b>canopy layer</b>	The layer of overlapping branches and leaves below the top of the rainforest that gets sunlight, rain and wind.
<b>understorey layer</b>	The warm and damp layer above the forest floor that gets little light.
<b>forest floor</b>	The ground layer of the rainforest where it is dark, wet and hot.

**Connect**

**Prior Knowledge**

**Year 2 - Why is our world wonderful?**

In Year 2, you learnt about some of the UK's and the world's amazing features and landmarks. You also learnt about human and physical features on a sketch map. You then collected data on your local area using key fieldwork skills!

**Key Vocabulary**

**Analyse** - examine something, with detail, using a method to explain or interpret it.

**Tropic of Capricorn** - South of the equator.

**Tropic of Cancer** - North of the equator.

**Equator** - An imaginary line around the middle of the Earth, It is half way between the North Pole and the South Pole.

**Greenhouse gas** - Gases in the Earth's atmosphere that trap heat.

**Vegetation belts** - The plant life as a whole in a certain area.

**Indigenous peoples** - People or animals native to a certain region or environment.

**Biome** - an area classified according to the species that live in that location.

**Key Knowledge**

- To know that climate zones are areas of the world with similar climates.
- To know the world's biomes.
- To know vegetation belts are areas of the world which are home to similar plant species.
- To know the threats to the rainforest both on a local and global scale.
- To know that climates can influence the foods able to grow.
- To know that the hottest biomes are found between the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn.

