



Geography focus	The Amazon Rainforest	Year 6	Spring Term
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What? (Key Knowledge)

The Rainforest and its Layers	
Emergent Layer	It's sunny here because it's the highest point. Only the tallest trees reach this level. You would find butterflies, bats, insects, monkeys and many birds here
Canopy Layer	Most trees of the forest grow to this height. Certain plants grow at this level but their roots don't reach the ground; these are called air plants. You would find toucans, snakes, orangutangs, sloths, parrots, lizards and many insects here.
Understorey Layer	Vegetation and vines can be found here and it's very dark. Here you would find bugs, jaguars, poison dart frogs and kin-kajous.
Forest Floor	A damp and dark part of the forest. Look out for tapirs and wild boar.
In the Water	Beware of electric eels, anacondas and piranhas in the water here!
Rainforest	Rainforests are forests which grow in areas of high rainfall. Tropical rainforests are found between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn and receive between 175-200 cm of rainfall a year
The Amazon River	The River is approximately 4000 miles long, mostly flowing through the rainforest.

What? (Key Vocabulary)

biomes	A large geographical area which is home to certain plants and animals, specially adapted to suit the environment.
climate	The usual or average weather conditions over a long period of time.
vegetation belt	A vegetation belt is the plant life within a biome.
Fair Trade	Fair trade is a way of buying and selling products that allows the farmers to be paid a fair price for their produce, and have better working conditions.
biodiversity	Plant and animal species in an area
economic activity	Ways in which the rainforest can generate money—through selling produce
distribution of resources	Where the resources from the rainforest are shared and used
current affairs	Events happening in the world at the present time (linked to the this topic)

Possible experiences

- Compare rainforest to our own Nature's Nook.
- Explore wildlife in each layer of Nature's Nook

Diagrams and symbols

Rainforest water cycle

- Water evaporates
- Heavy daily convective rain
- Trees intercept rain
- Trees take up water
- Some rain reaches the ground

Rainforest nutrient cycle

- Trees grow rapidly
- Trees shed leaves all year round
- Shallow roots take up the nutrients
- Decaying vegetation decomposes rapidly
- Nutrients enter the soil

Emergent Layer

Canopy

Under Storey

Shrub Layer

Forest Floor