

Interesting Fact:
Rainforests cover only 6 % of the Earth's surface but yet they contain MORE THAN 1/2 of the world's plant and animal species!

Rainforests Knowledge Organiser

There are two types of Rainforest:

1. Temperate Rainforests
2. Tropical Rainforests

Where?

Rainforests are usually found between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn (the tropics), where it is close to the Equator. It is very warm and there is lots of rainfall.

The biggest rainforest in the world is the Amazon rainforest in South America. These are the locations of the 10 largest rainforests in the world (not in order): Mexico, Venezuela, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Suriname, Peru, Congo DRC, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea.



Many of the things we have in our homes comes from the rainforest. These include:

- medicine
- chocolate - Chocolate is made from cocoa. Cocoa pods grow on trees in rainforests.
- sugar
- spices - includes ginger, allspice, pepper, cinnamon, coconut, vanilla, turmeric and paprika.
- rubber
- pineapples
- bamboo

(Links with science topic Plants)

Year 3 – Spring 2019

Layers of the Rainforest

The layers of a rainforest, from the highest to the lowest, are:

- **Emergent layer** (the tops of the highest trees)
- **Canopy layer** (the branches and leaves of most of the rainforest trees; where most of the rainforest's species are found)
- **Understory layer** (small trees and shrubs able to live in low-light conditions)
- **Forest Floor layer** (the dark, damp ground layer, where the rainforest's largest animals are found)



Rainforest Animals (links with Science topic Animals)

Red-Eyed Tree Frog		The red-eyed tree frog lives in areas of rainforest near inland water, e.g. rivers and ponds. When threatened, it opens its eyes, in an attempt to startle predators before it escapes.	South/Central America Canopy	Length: approx. 6cm Weight: approx. 10g
Sloth		Sloths are known for their exceptionally slow movement and for hanging upside down in trees. Their slow speed has evolved as a result of their low energy diet.	South/Central America Canopy	Length: approx. 70cm Weight: approx. 6kg
Reticulated Python		The reticulated python is the world's longest snake and in the top 3 heaviest. They stalk the understory, looking both below and above for prey, such as small mammals and birds.	Asia Understory Layer	Length: approx. 4m Weight: approx. 50kg
Bullet Ant		These ants are known for their exceptionally painful sting. They live in colonies of a few hundred, and spend their days foraging in the undergrowth for nectar.	South/ Central America Understory Layer	Length: approx. 20mm Weight: approx. 3mg
Tapir		Tapirs are large herbivores that are similar in shape to a pig, with a short nose trunk. Their diet consists of fruit, berries and leaves.	South/ Central America/Asia Forest Floor	Length: approx. 2m Weight: approx. 200kg
Gorilla		Gorillas are herbivores that dwell in the forests of central Africa. They mostly eat the leaves, stems, and shoots of the forest. The DNA of gorillas is around 97% identical to humans.	Africa Forest Floor	Length: approx. 1.6m Weight: approx. 160kg
Jaguar		The jaguar is the largest carnivorous animal in South America. The jaguar enjoys swimming and is at the top of its food chain. They regularly eat deer, tapirs and small caiman.	South/Central America Forest Floor	Length: approx. 1.5m Weight: approx. 80kg
Bengal Tiger		The Bengal Tiger is one of the biggest tiger subspecies (tigers are the biggest cats in the world). It is a top carnivore, eating mainly chital, sambur and domestic livestock. There are approximately 2,500 left in the wild.	Asia Forest Floor	Length: approx. 2.7m Weight: approx. 300kg