



South America & The Amazon Rainforest

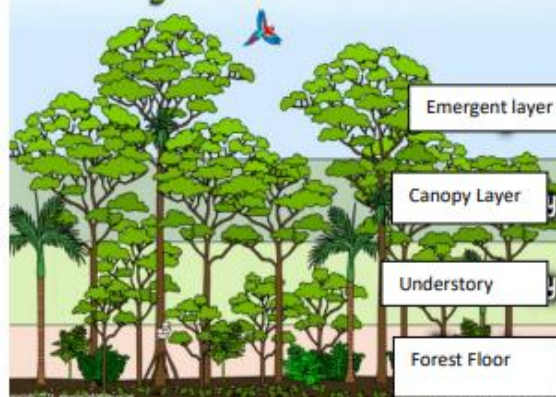
What I should already know

- The name and location of the seven continents.
- To find places using a globe or atlas.
- Know some hot and cold places in the world e.g. The North and South Pole.

What will I know by the end of the unit

- Rainforests are tropical forests which are located around the Equator (a line around the centre of the Earth) and in between the tropic of Cancer and Capricorn.
- There are four layers in a rainforest (see image).
- The climate of a rainforest is very hot and wet (this is called humid).
- 50% of the world's plants and animals live in rainforests.
- The Amazon rainforest in South America is the largest rainforest in the world.
- Deforestation is causing huge problems to our environment – the main problems are the loss of animal habitats and trees which give us oxygen.

The Layers of the Rainforest



Key Questions

- Why are rainforests so important?
- What is the climate like in a rainforest?
- Where are rainforests found?
- What are the four layers of a rainforest called?
- What animals live in a rainforest?
- What is deforestation?

The Andes mountain range is located in Chile and is the longest mountain range in the world.

The world's highest waterfall, Angel Falls, is located in Venezuela and the 2nd longest river, the Amazon, mostly located in Brazil.

Agriculture	The science of farming such as preparing the soil for the growing of crops and the rearing of animals to provide food and wool.
Biomes	A large area inhabited by plants and animals that live together e.g. forest, desert.
Canopy Layer	The upper level of the trees that form the cover of the lower layers. This layer is home to many insects, birds, reptiles and mammals.
Deforestation	The destruction of trees in a large area.
Economy	The system of money, jobs and trade within a country or region.
Emergent Layer	The top layer of the rainforest where there is lots of sunlight and tall trees at this level. Many birds and insects live here.
Equator	An imaginary line around the middle of the Earth.
Forest Floor	The ground layer of the rainforest where insects and the biggest animals of the rainforest live.
Habitat	The natural environment where an animal or plant normally lives.
Predator	An animal that hunts, kills and eats other animals.
Tribe	A group of people who live together, sharing the same language, culture and history.
Understory Layer	The layer of the rainforest underneath the canopy and above the ground.

Map of South America



General information:

South America is a **continent**. It has **12 countries** plus 2 regions that belong to European countries: (1) The Falkland Islands which is a British territory, and (2) French Guiana which is owned by France.

The **equator** runs through the the north of the continent. The country Ecuador literally means equator in Spanish.

Most of the continent is in the **southern hemisphere**.

All countries in South America speak **Spanish** apart from Brazil, where they speak **Portuguese**.