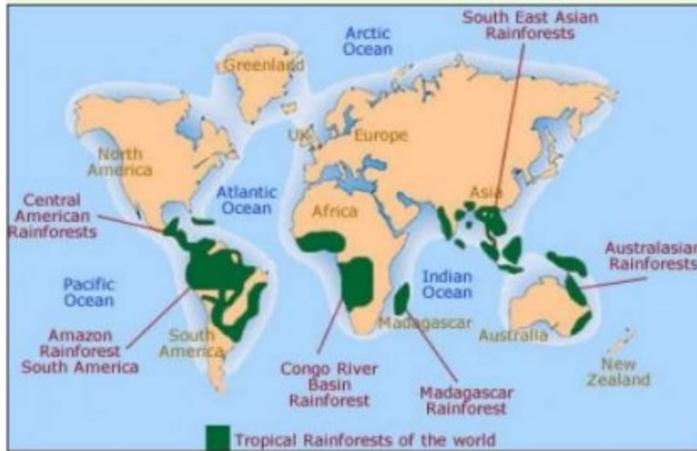


# Amazon Basin Knowledge Organiser

## Geography



## Deforestation

### Causes of Deforestation

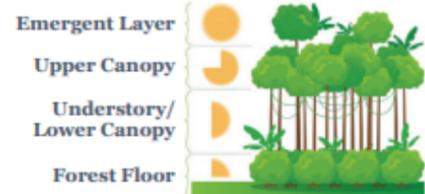
- To clear space for farming
- Chopping down trees for wood
- To build roads to mine for metals, gold and diamonds
- To dig for oil
- To flood areas to make dams and generate electricity

### Impact of Deforestation

- Half of the tropical rainforests we had have now gone
- 28,000 species of animal are expected to become extinct the next 25 years
- Local people are forced to move home
- Levels of oxygen in the air are decreasing whilst carbon dioxide are increasing

### What does the Amazon Rainforest look like?

The Amazon, like other rainforests, has different layers: the forest floor at the bottom; the understory layer above; the canopy layer; the emergent layer at the very top. Each layer is home to different plants and animals and because of the huge number of trees and their leaves, different amounts of sunlight reach each of them.



## The Amazon Rainforest

- 5.5 million square km (previously covered a much larger area)
- Parts in Brazil, Peru, Colombia, Venezuela, Ecuador, Bolivia, Guyana, Suriname and French Guiana
- 2.5 million insect species
- 40 000+ plant species
- 3 000 edible fruits
- 2 000+ species of birds and mammals



- 2 million tourists per year
- 170 different languages spoken
- 250 000 native tribes currently live there



## Significant People and Places

<b>Andes</b>	<b>Amazon Rainforest</b>	<b>Amazon River</b>	<b>Brazil</b>
A mountain range which runs along the western side of South America. The second highest peak is found here as well as the three sources of the Amazon River.	The largest tropical rainforest in the world, producing 40% of the oxygen. The majority is located in Brazil and one in ten known species of animal lives there.	The second longest river in the world (after the Nile) but the largest in terms of the water it carries to the sea. The river flows through the rainforest and has many different tributaries.	The largest country in South America and where most of the Amazon Rainforest is found. The capital city of Brazil is Brasilia and the main language is Portuguese.

## Significant People and Places

<b>Manaus</b>	<b>Peru</b>	<b>Madidi National Park</b>	<b>Manu National Park</b>
A city located in the centre of the Amazon Rainforest and known as 'Heart of the Amazon' and 'City of the Forest'. The National Institute of Amazonia Research is found here.	A country found to the east of Brazil. Parts of the Andes, Amazon Rainforest and Amazon River are found here. The capital city of Peru is Lima and the main language is Spanish.	A national park found in Bolivia which is part of one of the largest protected areas in the world. There are more than 1,000 bird, 12,000 plant and 2,000 vertebrate species here.	A national park found in Peru. It has a restricted zone for native people and researchers, a cultural zone for human settlement and a recuperation zone for rainforest life recovery.

Vocabulary	Definition
<b>Rainforest</b>	Tropical woodland, found typically in hot climate areas with consistently heavy rainfall.
<b>Climate</b>	The weather conditions in an area over a period of time.
<b>Tropical Zone</b>	A region of the Earth surrounding the equator, between the Tropic of Cancer in the Northern Hemisphere and the Tropic of Capricorn in the Southern Hemisphere.
<b>Temperate Zone</b>	The regions of the Earth between the Tropic of Cancer and the Arctic Circle in the Northern Hemisphere and between the Tropic of Capricorn and the Antarctic Circle in the Southern Hemisphere.
<b>Deforestation</b>	The action of clearing a wide area of trees.
<b>Habitat</b>	The natural home or environment of an animal, plant, or other organism
<b>Biomes</b>	A large naturally occurring community of flora and fauna occupying a major habitat, e.g. forest or tundra.
<b>Natural Resources</b>	Materials that occur in nature which can be used for economic gain.
<b>The Amazon Basin</b>	The area of South America in which rainfall will run into the Amazon River.
<b>Tributaries</b>	A river or stream flowing into a larger river or lake.