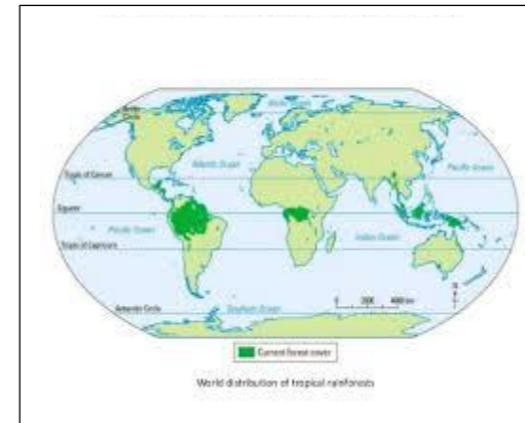
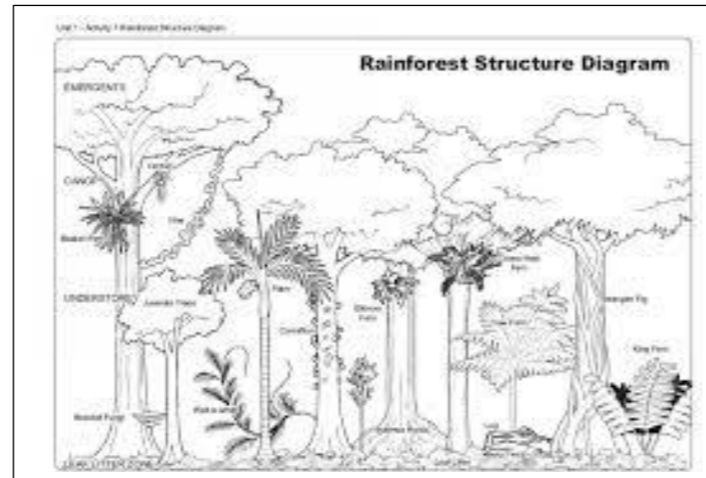


# Y7 Tropical rainforests



## Summary of all the topics

- Introduction to Tropical rainforests.
- What is the equatorial climate?
- Where are rainforests located?
- What are equatorial/Tropical rainforests?
- Why are Tropical rainforests important?
- How do we use Tropical rainforests?
- Why do Tropical rainforests need protecting?
- How can we protect Tropical rainforests?



## Key geographical concepts

- Rainforests are a type of ecosystem which is a community of plants and animals which interact with each other and with their non-living environment. The type of plants that grow here depends upon factors such as climate, soil, rock type and relief.
- Rainforests tend to be located around the equatorial regions. This is because the sun is high overhead meaning the temperatures in the Rainforests are high. This leads to high rates of evaporation, condensation and eventually high rates of rainfall.
- Tropical rainforests are important because they are vast areas which contain many trees. Trees absorb carbon dioxide and release oxygen which helps to regulate the temperatures in the atmosphere. This helps to control global warming.
- Tropical rainforests contain half the world's species of plants and animals; some plants may become extinct before they are discovered. Around 25% of all medicine comes from rainforest plants. More than 2000 rainforest plants have anti-cancer properties.
- Tropical rainforests are the most endangered ecosystem on earth. Every two seconds an area of Rainforest the size of a football pitch is being destroyed. They once covered over 15.5 million km<sup>2</sup>, now the figure is just over 6.2 million km<sup>2</sup>.

## Summary of key learning

- You understand that Tropical rainforests exist in certain regions around the world.
- You understand that they are located in these regions due to factors such as the distance from the sun.
- You understand that Tropical rainforests are unique ecosystems that cannot be replaced if they are destroyed.
- You understand that they play a very important role in regulating the temperature of the earth.
- You understand that we all have a responsibility to ensure that they are protected.

## Key words and definitions:

**Ecosystem** = a community of plants and animals that exists together due to a number of factors.

**Equatorial** = an area located around the equator, the middle line of latitude around the earth.

**Rainforest** = sometimes referred to as a jungle.

**Climate** = describes the temperature and weather conditions.

**Buttress root** = The large roots at the base of a very tall emergent tree.

**Shrub layer** = the vegetation growing close to the forest floor.

**Under canopy** = the layer of vegetation that exists slightly taller than the ones on the forest floor.

**Canopy layer** = the layer of vegetation that consists mainly of trees, these form a layer which effectively blocks a lot of the sunshine from reaching the layers beneath.

**Emergent** = the tallest trees that extend out of the canopy layer in order to reach the sunlight.

**Adaptations** = the ways in which plants and animals change or adapt in order to exist in that particular environment.

**Deforestation** = the cutting down and removal of trees.

**Atmosphere** = the gases, including oxygen which exist around us.

**Climate change** = the natural and often enhanced warming of the atmosphere due to the increasing amounts of Carbon dioxide and methane which absorb and retain heat from the sun.