



The Rainforest

Why are rainforests important?

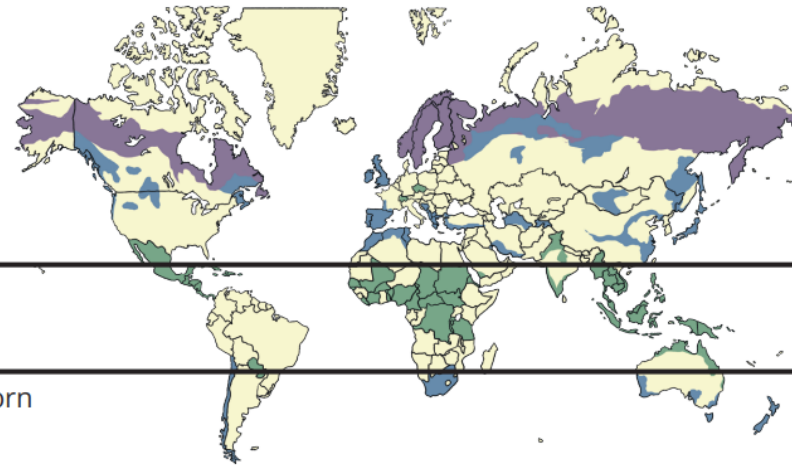
Tropical rainforests are found north and south of the equator between the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn.

Temperate rainforests are found close to the ocean, usually on the west coast

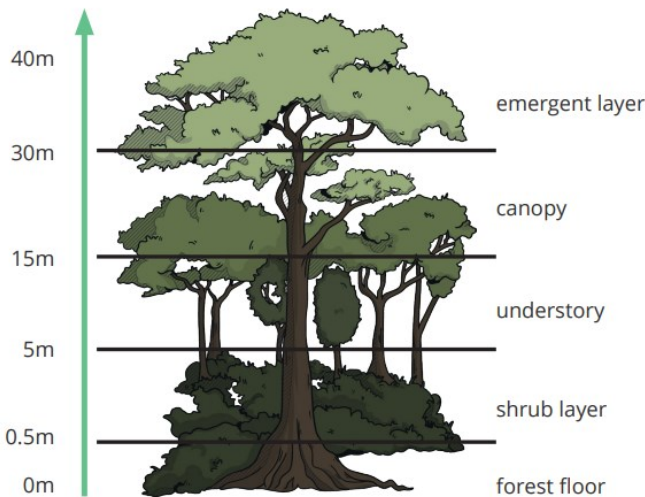
The world's largest tropical rainforest is the Amazon region of South America.

Even a small patch of rainforest contains an amazing variety of life. Scientists have found 1500 types of plants, 400 types of birds and 150 different butterflies in an area just six km square.

About 80% of the world's documented



Vocabulary	
Agriculture	The work of growing crops or rearing animals.
Biome	An area which has similar plants, animals and climate.
Boreal	Occuring in the northern hemisphere.
Coast	The land along a sea.
Deforestation	The removal of trees.
Equator	A line of latitude at 0° it runs across the middle of the Earth.
Indigenous	A species which is native to a particular region.
Mineral	A rock or part of a rock that is often useful to us in some way.
Rainforest	An area of tall, mostly evergreen tree and a high amount of rainfall.
Sustainability	Small changes we can make to help look after the planet.
Trade	Buying or selling goods or services.
Temperate	A region categorised by mild temperatures.
Tropical	A region between the tropics of Cancer and Capricorn.



● boreal forest ● temperate forest ● tropical forest



Life inside the rainforest

Some estimates put the first human settlements in the Amazon at 32,000 to 39,000 years ago. Since that time, Amazon people have developed lifestyles that are well integrated with the



People from around the world are protesting about the destruction of rainforests and are urging governments to look for alternative ways to use the rainfor-



Our rainforests are at risk because of humans. 2000 trees a minute are being cut down in the rainforest, more than a hundred species of plants and animals are being lost every day. If this carries on, there may be little or no rainforest left in 50 years' time.

