

Rainforests

<u>Scientific and geographical vocabulary</u>		
	Term	Definition
1	Rainforest	A dense forest, normally found in tropical areas with high rainfall. They generate much of the world's oxygen.
2	Country	A nation with its own government e.g. UK, USA, Germany, Denmark, Brazil, China.
3	Continent	The world's main continuous pieces of land (Africa, Asia, Australasia, Europe, North America, South America, Antarctica).
4	Ecosystem	A community of plants and animals that depend on each other to survive.
5	Deforestation	The action of clearing a wide area of trees.
6	Habitat	The natural home or environment of an animal, plant or organism.
7	Interdependent	When two or more people or things rely on each other.

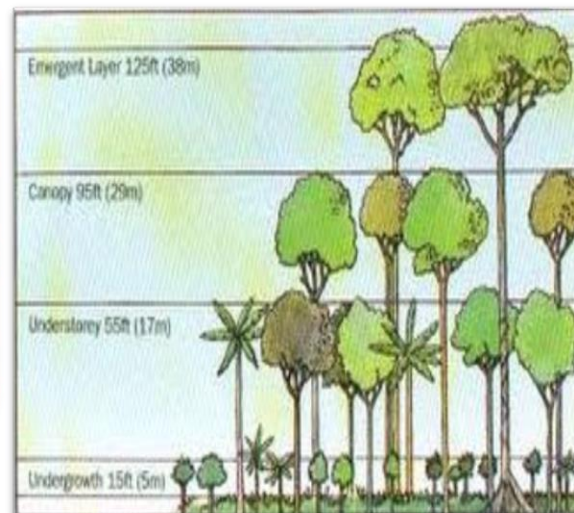
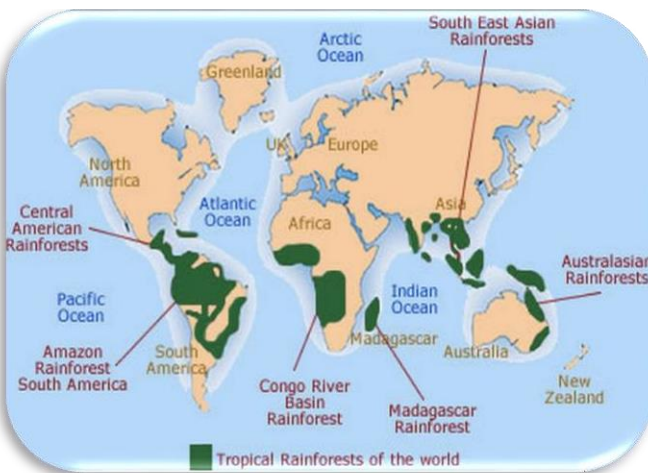
<u>Causes of Deforestation</u>	
1	To clear space for farming: growing crops (e.g. soya beans & palm oil) and space cattle to generate cheap beef.
2	Chopping down trees for wood.
3	To build roads to mine for metals, gold & diamonds.
4	To dig for oil.
5	To flood areas to make dams & generate electricity.

<u>Impact of Deforestation</u>	
1	An area the size of 20 football pitches is destroyed every 60 seconds.
2	$\frac{1}{2}$ of the tropical rainforests we had are gone.
3	28,000 species of animals are expected to become extinct in the next 25 years.
4	Local people's homes are destroyed.
5	Levels of carbon dioxide in the air are increasing and oxygen is decreasing.

<u>Location, Layers and features</u>		
1	Equator	Imaginary line through the middle of the Earth that receives the most sunlight.
2	Tropic of Cancer Tropic of Capricorn	Imaginary lines north and south of the equator. Most rainforests can be found between these two lines.
3	Emergent Layer	Giant trees that enjoy the most sun but high winds & cold.
4	Canopy	Dense layer of trees overlapping each other. Home to most animals in rainforests.
5	Understory	Relatively dark, open area below the canopy.
6	Undergrowth	Also known as the forest floor, mainly consisting of fallen leaves, fruit etc. that decomposes as food for trees.

Books/Reading Links:

- The Great Kapok Tree - Lynne Cherry
- The Explorer - Katherine Rundell
- Journey to the River Sea - Eva Ibbotson
- Running Wild - Michael Morpurgo



<u>Interesting facts</u>	
1	Rainforests cover approximately 6% of the Earth's surface but contain more than $\frac{1}{2}$ of the world's plants. About 90% of organisms are found in the canopy.
2	About 30 million species of plants and animals live in tropical rainforests.
3	There are two types of rainforests – Tropical and Temperate . Tropical rainforests are generally warmer than temperate ones.
4	Many things we have in our homes come from rainforests including: chocolate, sugar, rubber, bamboo and many medicines.