

Why are rainforests important to us?

Year 4 Term 2
Environment

Key geographical concepts

- Human and physical geography
- Location
- Place

Key learning

- Rainforests are tall, dense forests that receive a lot of rain each year.
- Rainforests are located in tropical biomes, close to the equator.
- There are four layers of the rainforest: the forest floor, the understory layer, the canopy layer and the emergent layer. Each layer is full of a different, diverse range of plants and animals, many of which can only be found in the rainforest.
- The Amazon rainforest is the largest tropical rainforest in the world and it is found in South America.
- Rainforests can be home to indigenous people. These are groups of people whose ancestors were the first people to live there and they use the natural resources in the rainforest to survive.
- Rainforests are under threat from global warming, deforestation, mining and more.



Key vocabulary

biome	An area of the world with a similar climate and landscape, where similar plants and animals live.
canopy layer	The layer of overlapping branches and leaves below the top of the rainforest that gets sunlight, rain and wind.
equator	An invisible line of latitude around the middle of the Earth, that splits the world into two hemispheres.
emergent layer	The top layer of the rainforest with the tallest trees that gets lots of sunlight, rain and wind.
forest floor	The ground layer of the rainforest where it is dark, wet and hot.
indigenous people	People living in an area whose ancestors were the first groups of people to live there.
understory layer	The layer above the forest that gets little light and is warm and damp.

Layers of the rainforest

emergent layer

canopy layer

understorey layer

forest floor

Tropical rainforest

Big Ideas - Our Learning Journey

Reception

Environment - Outdoor adventures

Year 1/2

Environment - Coasts, Hot and Cold Places, Wonderful World

Year 3/4

Environment - Settlements, Volcanoes, Rainforests, Antarctica, rivers

Year 5/6

Environment - Mountains, Oceans, Deserts



Ethics

What can we do to protect the rainforests?