

Why are rainforests important to us?

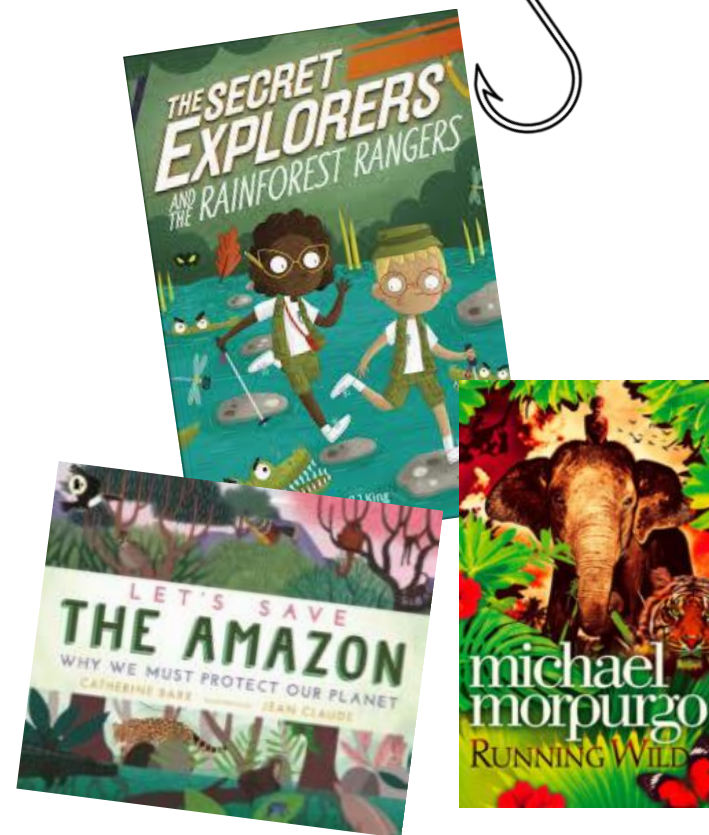
Overview

This term in geography, children will explore this unit, we will explore the amazing world of rainforests, with a special focus on the Amazon. We'll learn what a biome is and discover where the Amazon is and what makes it so special. We'll find out about the four layers of a rainforest and how trees, plants, and animals survive there. We'll also learn about the indigenous people who live in the rainforest and how they use its resources. We'll talk about how the Amazon is changing and why it's so important to protect it. You'll get to investigate how people can harm the rainforest and think of ways to help. We'll also explore our own local woodland, find out how it's used, and come up with ideas to make it even better!

Essential Knowledge

- Describe a biome and give an example.
- State the location and some key features of the Amazon rainforest.
- Name and describe the four layers of tropical rainforests.
- Understand that trees and plants adapt to living in the rainforest and give an example.
- Define the word indigenous and give an example of how indigenous peoples use the Amazon's resources.
- Name one way in which the Amazon is changing.
- Articulate why the Amazon rainforest is important.
- Give an example of how humans are having a negative impact on the Amazon and an action that can be taken to help.
- Use a variety of data collection methods with support.
- Summarise how the local woodland is used and suggest changes to improve the area.

Hook into a Book



What is the Amazon rainforest like?

Where in the world are tropical rainforests?

Who lives in the rainforest?

How are rainforests changing?

How is our local woodland used?

Activate Prior Knowledge

EY

- Talk about similarities and differences in relation to places, objects, materials and living things
- Make observations of the environment and explain why some things occur and talk about changes
- Use everyday language to talk about positions and distance to solve problems
- Draw information from a simple map

KS1

- Name the seven continents and five oceans
- Human and physical geography of the local area and another non-European country
- Know the four seasons of the UK, what weather means and how different parts of the world experience different weather conditions often caused by their location.
- Know the Equator is an imaginary line around the middle of the Earth
- Using locational language and the compass points (N, S, E, W) to describe the location of features on a map and plan routes

Links to Future Learning

- Locating key human features in countries studied.
- Identifying significant environmental regions on a map.
- Using maps to show the distribution of the world's climate zones
- identifying the location of the Prime/Greenwich Meridian and time zones (including day and night) and explaining its significance.
- Using longitude and latitude when referencing location in an atlas or on a globe.
- To know the Prime/Greenwich Meridian is a line of longitude which goes through 0° and determines the start of the world's time zones.
- Accurately using 4 and 6-figure Grid References to locate features on a map in regions studied.
- Planning a journey to another part of the world using six figure grid references and the eight points of a compass.

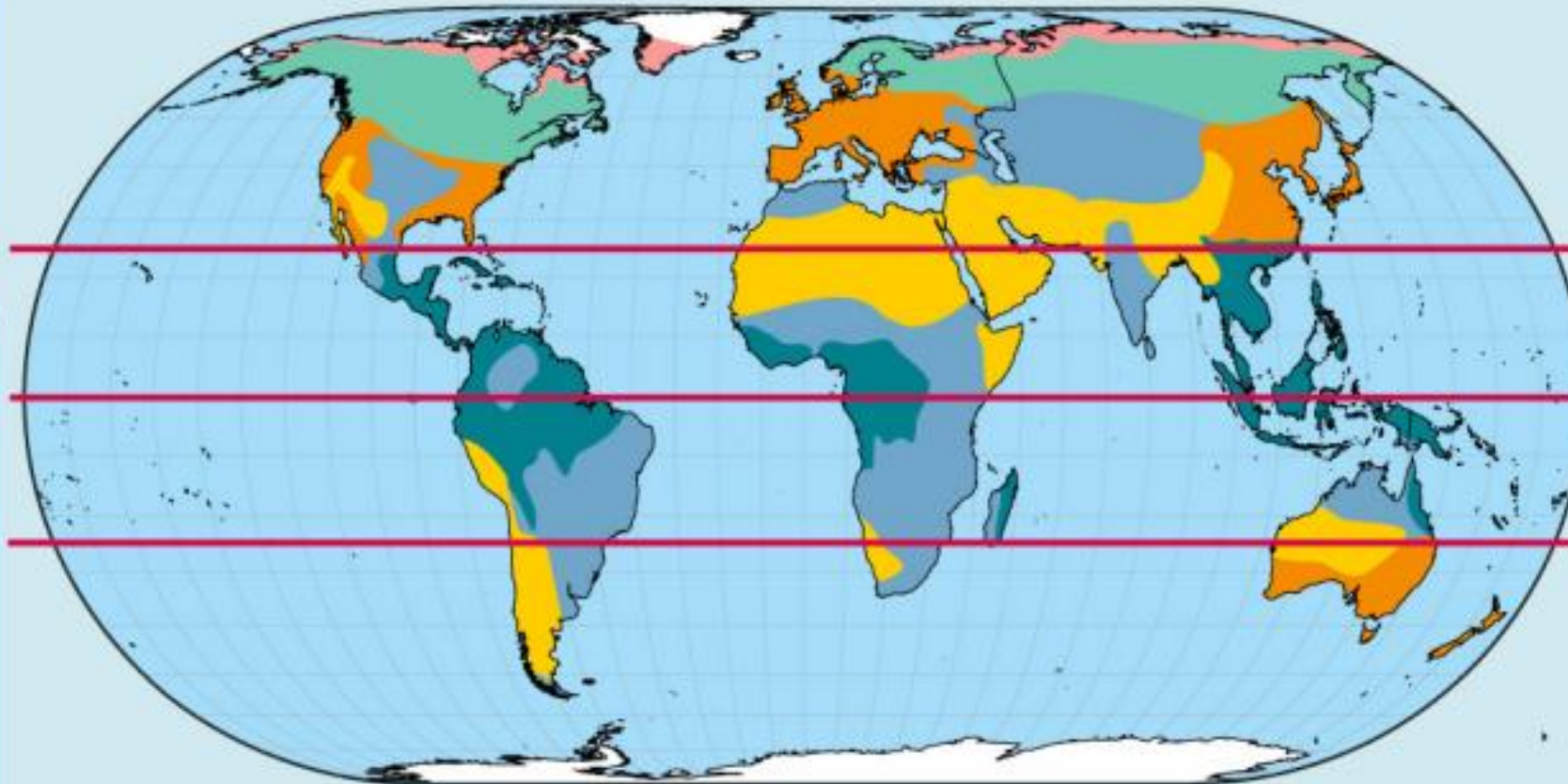
Geography - Why are rainforests important to us?

Map of the world's biomes

biome

An area of the world with a similar climate and landscape, where similar plants and animals live.

- Tundra
- Boreal forest
- Temperate deciduous forest
- Savannah
- Tropical rainforest
- Desert



Tropic of Cancer

A line of latitude north of the Equator which marks the northernmost edge of the Earth's hottest regions.

Equator

An invisible horizontal line that splits the world into two hemispheres.

Tropic of Capricorn

A line of latitude south of the Equator which marks the southernmost edge of the Earth's hottest regions.

Tropical rainforest



How have plants adapted in the Amazon rainforest?



Thin, smooth bark ensures rain can run off trees easily.



Buttress roots keep tall trees stable in the wet soil and strong winds.



Drip tips mean rain can run off leaves without damaging them.



Lianas (vines) wind their way up other plants to reach sunlight.

Map of the Amazon rainforest



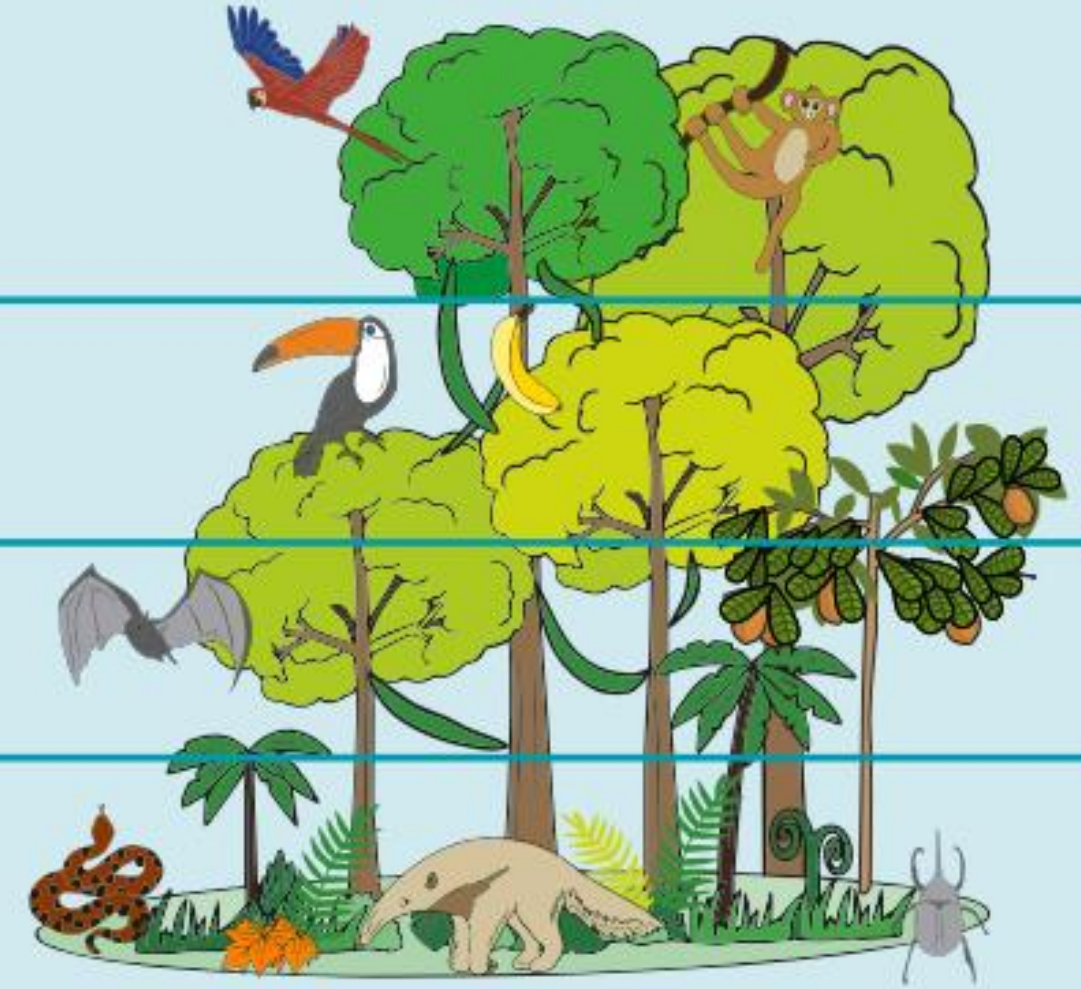
Layers of the rainforest

emergent
layer

canopy
layer

understorey
layer

forest
floor



global warming



When our Earth's temperature rises because of greenhouse gases.

mining



The process of digging up valuable minerals from the Earth's crust.

logging



The cutting down of trees for their wood.

deforestation



The cutting down of trees in a large area.

emergent layer

The top layer of the rainforest with the tallest trees that get lots of sunlight, rain and wind.

canopy layer

The layer of overlapping branches and leaves below the top of the rainforest that gets sunlight, rain and wind.

understorey layer

The warm and damp layer above the forest floor that gets little light.

forest floor

The ground layer of the rainforest where it is dark, wet and hot.