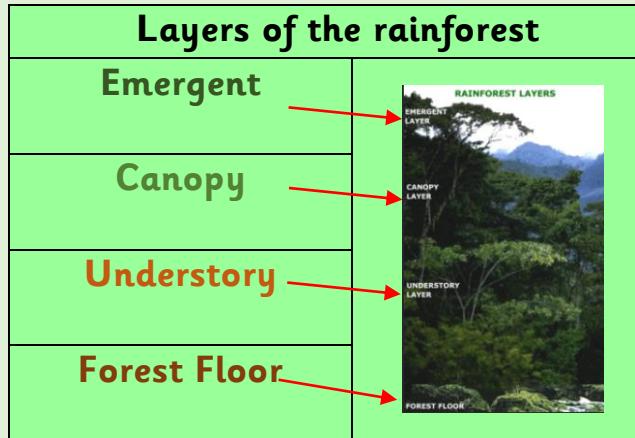


# Rainforests

## Why should we act now to save our rainforests?



Key Vocabulary	
<b>deforestation</b>	A permanent destruction of forests.
<b>endangered</b>	A group of plants or animals that are in danger of becoming extinct.
<b>extinct</b>	An animal species that is no longer living.
<b>habitat</b>	A place where plants or animals live.
<b>humidity</b>	Hot, sticky air due to the water vapours in the air.
<b>indigenous</b>	The earliest people known to naturally originate from a particular place.
<b>species</b>	A group of living things which have similarities which are capable of reproducing together.



### Did you know?

Millions of people all over the world use products from the rainforest on a daily basis. Wood, food, plants and oil from the rainforest are used in a variety of products.

### FACT FILE

**Main types of rainforests:** Temperate & Tropical

**Temperate rainforests:** Found along coasts in the temperate zone where the weather is milder.

**Tropical rainforests:** Found near the equator.

**World's largest tropical rainforest:** Amazon.

**Location of The Amazon:** South America.

**Animals & plants in the Amazon:**

Around 80,000 species of plants.

An estimated 2.5 million species of insects.

Over 2,500 species of animals (other than insects).

**Importance:** Plants of the rainforest produce a lot of the Earth's oxygen.



## Layers of the Rainforest

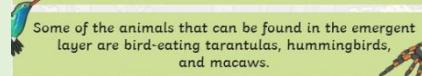
### The Emergent Layer



This is the top layer of the rainforest.

Only a few animals live in this layer.

It is hot, wet, and windy in the emergent layer.



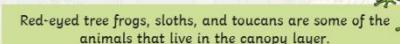
### The Canopy Layer



The canopy layer is located under the emergent layer.

The canopy is home to most of the animals and plants of the rainforest.

There is plenty of food and shelter in this layer.



### The Understory Layer



The understory layer is located beneath the canopy.

The understory does not get much sunlight.  
It is dark and humid here.

The understory is home to smaller animals, insects, and snakes.

Some larger animals use the understory layer for hunting.

### The Forest Floor Layer



The last layer of the rainforest is the forest floor layer.

This layer is dark, humid, and hot. Only 5% of the sunlight makes it to the forest floor.

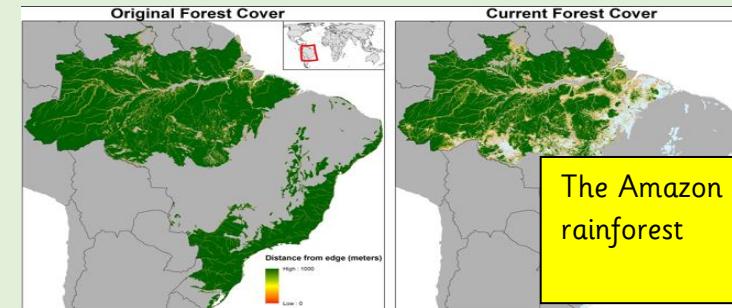
Anteaters, jaguars, and scorpions are some of the animals that live in the forest floor layer.



## Physical Characteristics of a Tropical Rainforest

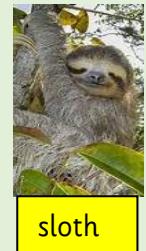
Climate	Water	Soils	Plants	Animals
<p>Hot (25-30°C).</p> <p>Sunlight 12 hours a day, all year round.</p> <p>Wet-</p> <p>Between 250cm – over 400cm rainfall per year.</p> <p>Rainfall every day.</p>	<p>There is a cycle of convectional rainfall every day.</p> <p>Many of the world's largest rivers are found in tropical rainforests.</p> <p>The Amazon river runs through the Amazon rainforest and is the largest and longest river in the world.</p>	<p>Soil is not very fertile.</p> <p>Rain washes away nutrients from soil.</p> <p>It is a red colour because it has a lot of iron in it.</p>	<p>Most trees are evergreen.</p> <p>There are four layers of the rainforest.</p> <p>The plants absorb carbon dioxide and release oxygen.</p>	<p>Many species of animals live in a tropical rainforest.</p> <p>Food is plentiful for the animals and grows all year.</p> <p>There are hundreds of different types of monkeys, snakes and birds.</p> <p>Thousands of insect species live in the rainforest.</p>

**Deforestation** of tropical rainforests has been an issue for over 50 years and is still happening now! Although the overall rate of deforestation in tropical rainforests is slowing down (Brazil's rate has decreased by 21% in 2005- 2010), some countries still have an increasing rate of deforestation (Indonesia).



### Causes of deforestation:

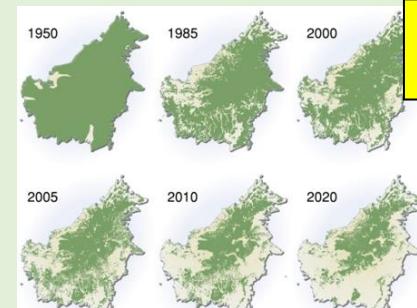
- Logging
- Small and large scale farming
- Road and dam construction
- Soya bean plantation



sloth

### Impact of deforestation:

- Indigenous people lose their land and this puts their survival at risk.
- Less oxygen and more carbon dioxide which causes global warming.
- 80% of land animals at risk. Some species may become extinct.
- Soil ruined due to the heavy rainfall and this affects farming.



Look what has happened to the Indonesian rainforest!



Amazon river



ferns



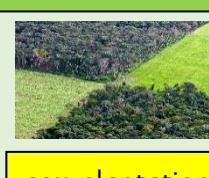
Kayapo tribe



logging



dam



soy plantation