

## Rainforest at a Glance

- Q1. What are the two types of rainforest?
- Q2. Where are rainforests found?
- Q3. How many seasons do rainforests have?
- Q4. What are the names of the 4 floors of a rainforest called?



### Rainforests Knowledge Organiser

Open with

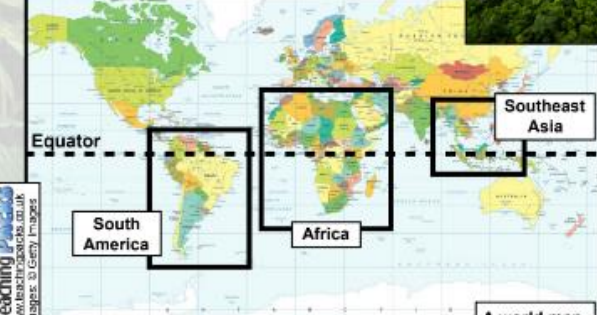
Rainforests are the oldest ecosystems on Earth and they are home to millions of people, plants and animals. There are two types of rainforest; tropical and temperate.

**Tropical Rainforests**  
 Tropical rainforests are found near the equator, in South America, Southeast Asia, Africa and the islands in the Pacific Ocean. The largest of these is the Amazon rainforest. These rainforests only cover 6% of the surface of the Earth but scientists believe that about 50% of the plant and animal species in the world live in them.

The enormous amount of rain (at least 200cm per year), coupled with tropical heat, means that the conditions in the rainforest are humid and damp. This makes it a very fertile habitat for plant and animal life. Tropical rainforests have two seasons a year; the wet (or rainy) season and the dry season.

A Capuchin monkey, a caiman and an orangutan.



A world map.

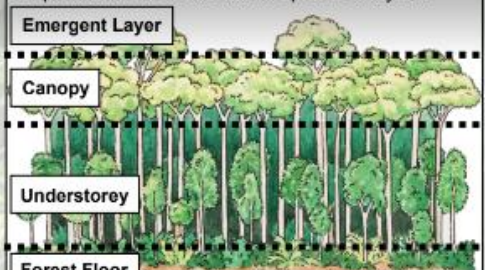
**The Amazon rainforest in Brazil.**

Plants in the rainforest take in carbon dioxide and produce oxygen. The Amazon rainforest produces around 20% of the world's oxygen.

#### Rainforest Layers

Tropical rainforests are made up of four layers.

Emergent Layer



Canopy

Understorey

Forest Floor

The **emergent layer** consists of tree tops that poke up above the canopy. It receives plenty of sunlight but it is also windy and rainy. The layer is inhabited by birds, bats, butterflies and other insects, as well as some small monkeys, such as the Capuchin.

In the **canopy**, the leaves of the trees provide a 'roof' for the rainforest, blocking sunlight from reaching the layers below. There is a plentiful supply of nuts and fruit so many different animals live here (e.g. sloths which have a layer of green algae to act as camouflage).

The **understorey** is warm and humid, and young trees and shrubs are found here. Insects thrive in this layer and many popular house plants, such as ferns, come from the understorey. Animals in this layer include jaguars, lizards, frogs and snakes.

The forest floor is very dark and hot. Decomposition takes place in this layer, with fungi and insects breaking down the decaying plants. Larger animals (e.g. giant anteater) live in this layer, as well as rodents and pigs.

Q 5. Draw a rough sketch of the world and indicate on it where the rainforests are located, this slide will assist you to draw the sketch of the world.

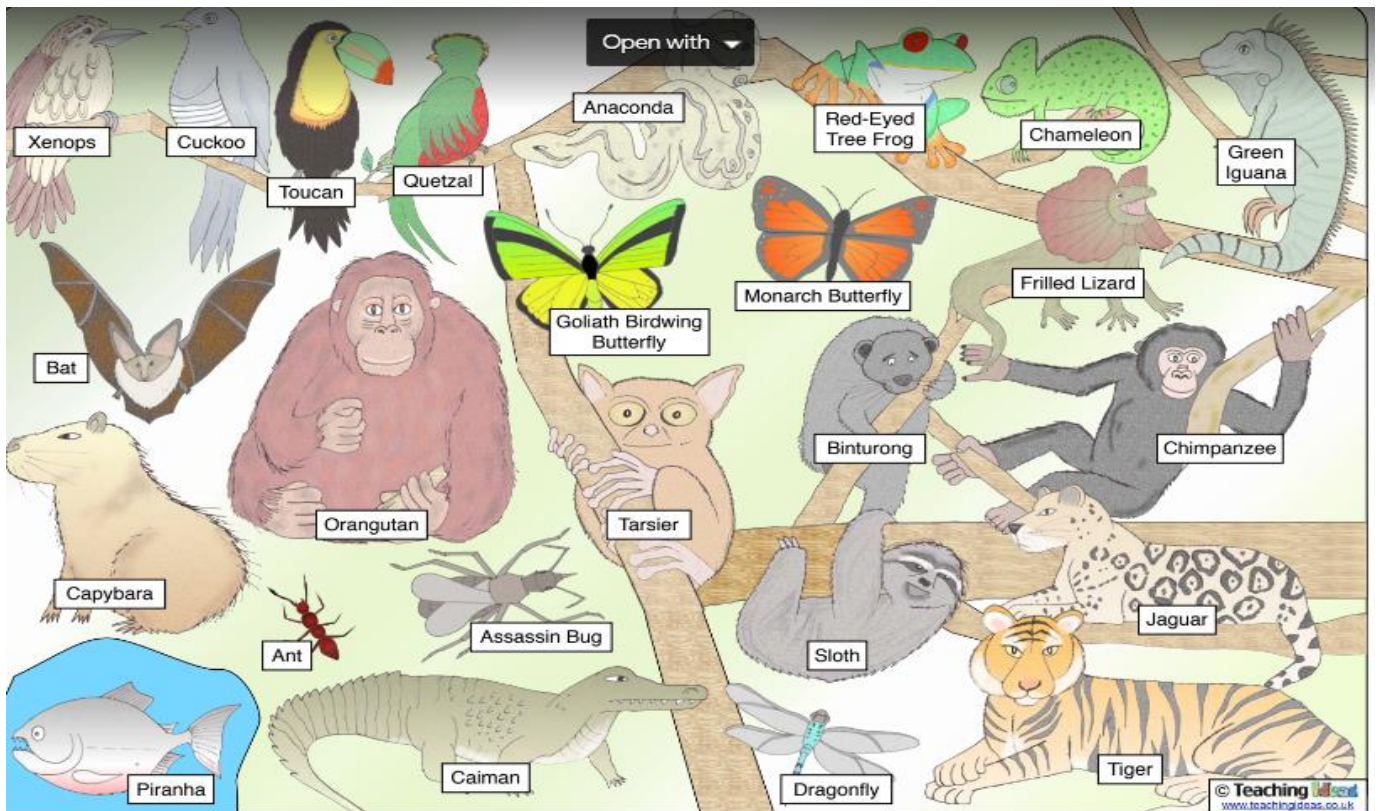


Q 6. How tall can trees grow in the emergent layer?

More than two-thirds of the world's plant species can be found in rainforests. The wide variety of plants can be found at different levels in the forest and can support lots of different types of animals.



Q 7 Sketch 3 animals of the rainforest. Find out 3 facts about the 3 animals you chose.



Q 8 Write 1 fact on each of the 10 'Rainforests of the World'. Don't forget to title each of the rainforests clearly here.

**Open with** ▶ **Rainforests of the World**

**The Pacific Temperate Rainforests** run along the coast from Alaska through Canada to Northern California. Salmon, black bears, grizzly bears, bald eagles, wolves and sitka deer all live there.

**The Central Suriname Nature Reserve** is a conservation unit in Suriname. It preserves an area of tropical rainforest that is largely unspoiled and is known for the species of birds living there.

**Madagascar** is an island in the Indian Ocean and over 90% of its wildlife is found nowhere else on Earth. Animals living there include lemurs, fossa and two-thirds of the world's species of chameleon.

**The Amazon Rainforest** is the biggest rainforest in the world. Most of the forest can be found in Brazil but parts cover Peru, Colombia, Venezuela, Ecuador, Bolivia and other countries.

**The Atlantic Forest** runs along the east coast of Brazil. Almost 88% of the original forest habitat has been destroyed and the deforestation continues today. Many species there are threatened with extinction.

**The Congo Rainforest** is the world's second-largest tropical forest. The area is home to more than 75 million people, 400 species of mammals, 1,000 species of birds and 10,000 species of tropical plants.

**The Western Ghats** is a mountain range in India. The rainforests there are home to tigers, Asian elephants and leopards. However, farming and development has destroyed much of the original forests.

**Khao Sok National Park** in Thailand has some of the oldest evergreen rainforest in the world. Over 5% of the world's species live there, including the world's only known amphibious centipede.

**The Borneo lowland rain forest** is home to 10,000 plant species, 380 bird species and many other rare and threatened animals. However, logging, hunting and development are destroying large areas of the forest.

**The Daintree Rainforest** in Australia is older than the Amazon Rainforest and covers 1,200 square kilometres. It is home to Bennett's Tree Kangaroo and the Spotted-Tail Quoll.

Q 9. What percentage of the world's fresh water is found in the Amazon Basin?

# RAINFORESTS

Rainforests are the oldest ecosystems on Earth. The Amazon is believed to be at least 55 million years old, and the Daintree rainforest in Australia may be as old as 180 million years. They are also the most bio diverse environments found on the planet, home to millions of plants and animals.

There are two types of rainforest; tropical and temperate.

An aerial view of the Amazon rainforest in Brazil.

**Did You Know?** Around 20% of the world's fresh water is found in the Amazon basin.

A view of the Daintree rainforest.

A female orangutan with a cub in a rainforest on the island of Borneo.

Millions of people also live in the rainforests of the world.

Q.10. Pick 2 animals to sketch and write 2 facts on each animal



### Extension Work

Palm oil, Danger of Deforestation- Research these topics yourself and write a short paragraph on each topic or represent what you have learned in a cartoon strip.