

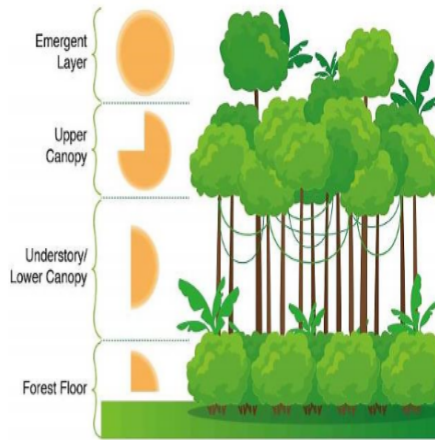


Year 5
Geography

Key Vocabulary

ecosystem	all of the living and non-living things in an area
habitat	the place where a living thing makes its home
camouflage	animals hide themselves by blending into its surroundings
climate	weather and temperature usually found in a particular area
carbon dioxide	gas released when fuel is burned and when animals and humans breathe / plants use up carbon dioxide
oxygen	gas released by plants / breathed in by animals and humans
monsoon	wind that changes direction with the seasons
temperate	a climate with warm summers and cool summers
humid	having a high level of moisture in the air
equatorial	warm rainforests growing near the equator
tropical	tropics are warm all year around and rainforests can grow
indigenous	a living person or thing that belongs naturally to an area
extinct	an animal or plant species that has died out completely
vegetation	the plant life growing in a certain area

Rainforests are a kind of forest habitat that can be found in warm places. They are full of tall trees and leafy plants. It is called a 'rainforest' because it also gets a lot of rain every year, helping all the plants grow.



Layers of the Rainforests

Emergent Layer



This layer receives the most sunlight and plenty of rain. It is very windy here and trees can rise to 70m in height. There are plenty of animals such as birds and monkeys in this layer (e.g. scarlet macaws, harpy eagles, canary-winged parakeets, morpho butterflies and capuchin/squirrel monkeys).

Upper Canopy



This layer still gets plenty of sunlight and rain but it is less windy. Wide leaves and thicker branches create a roof which stops light getting to lower layers. It is home to a range of wildlife (e.g. toucans, sloths, howler monkeys, iguanas and tree snakes).

Understory / Lower Canopy

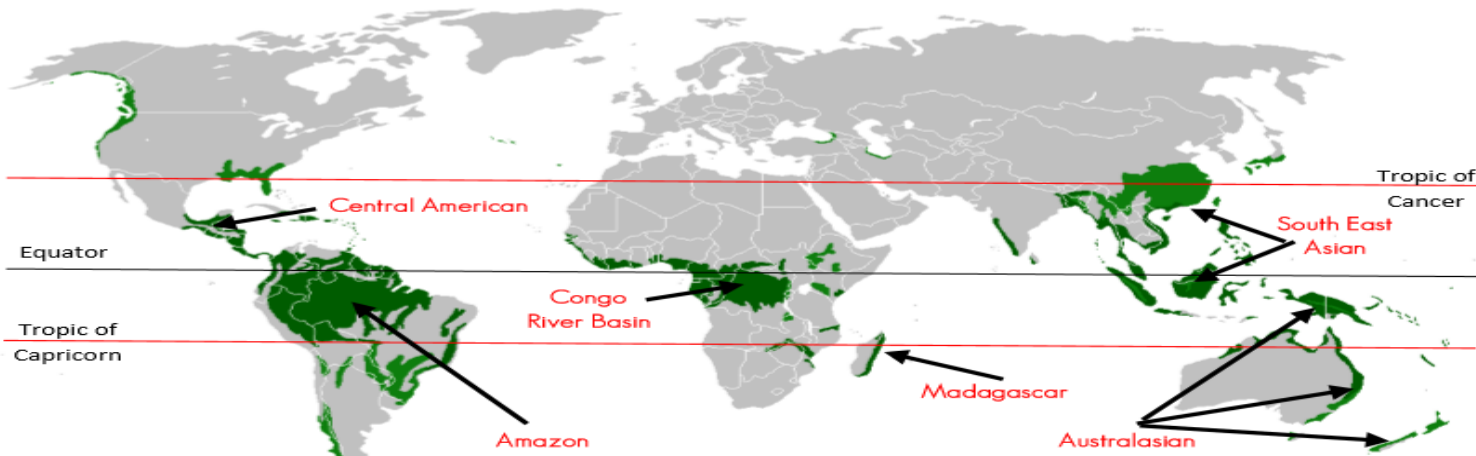


This layer only gets a small amount of light and is a damp and warm environment filled with smaller shrubs and trees which provide shelter and food for other animals (e.g. tree frogs, jaguars and the praying mantis).

Forest Floor



This layer is dark, damp and very warm with virtually no sunlight reaching the floor. Leaves fall to the floor and start to rot. It is filled with rodents, insects and insect-eating animals (e.g. click beetles, worms, giant centipedes, giant anteaters and leaf-cutter ants).



Where in the World?

Rainforest habitats are forests located around the tropics, which is a zone around the equator, and are mainly found in Africa, Asia, Australia, Central America and South America. The largest rainforest habitat in the world is the Amazon rainforest in South America. Temperate rainforests are not as warm so there aren't as many plants. These are located along the northwest coast of North America, and in parts of Chile, New Zealand and Australia.