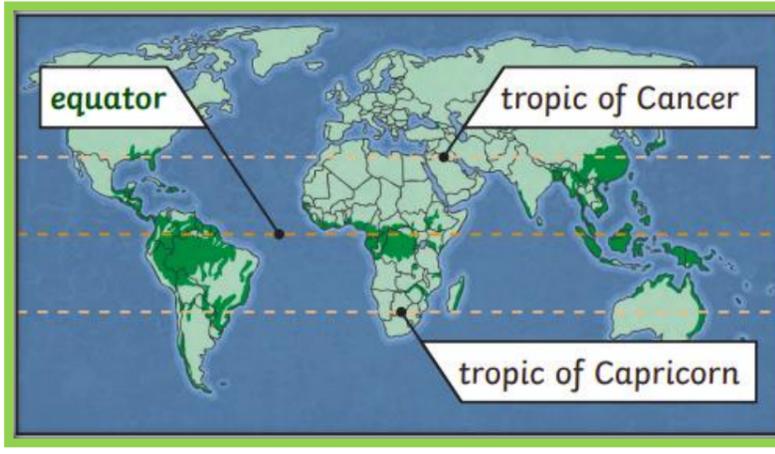


# WHY ARE RAINFORESTS SO IMPORTANT? KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER



## Where in the world are Rainforests?

Rainforests are found near to the **equator** between the tropic of Cancer and the tropic of Capricorn. They can be found in every continent except Antarctica. Rainforests are found in many countries, such as Brazil, Peru, Australia, Indonesia, and Bolivia.

## Climate

There are no seasons in a rainforest – the **climate** is the same all year round. Every month, a rainforest has an average rainfall of at least 6cm as it usually rains every day. The **climate** is very hot and humid.

## The Amazon Rainforest

The Amazon is 5,500,000 square kilometers of rainforest (previously covered a much larger area), with parts in Brazil, Peru, Colombia, Venezuela, Ecuador, Bolivia, Guyana, Suriname and French Guiana. The Amazon Rainforest is home to about 2.5 million insect species, 40 000+ plant species of plant species, 3 000 edible fruits, and over 2,000 species of birds and mammals. Around 2 million tourists visit Amazon each year. 170 different languages spoken and 250 000 **native tribes** currently live there.



## Deforestation

Trees are cut down to create fields for farming cattle and growing crops, produce timber and wood pulp to make furniture and paper, and create space for housing.

### Positive Impact

Jobs are created in logging and transporting timber and manufacturing products. Selling land raises money for local people.

### Negative Impact

People's homes are destroyed. Animals and plants may become extinct through habitat loss. Plants that may have been useful could be lost.

## What Can Be Done to Protect the Rainforest?

Use both sides of a piece of paper, and use pencils until they are stubs. Use ebooks or a library rather than buying new books. Turn off lights and electrical items when not in use. Buy Fairtrade fruit, vegetables, chocolate and coffee.

## Key Vocabulary

Northern Hemisphere	Part of the planet that is north of the equator.	Southern Hemisphere	Part of the planet that is south of the equator.
equator	An imaginary circle running round the center of the earth.	latitude	A geographic coordinate that specifies the north-south position of a point on the Earth's surface
longitude	A geographic coordinate that specifies the east-west position of a point on the Earth's surface	decompose	The break down into simpler parts especially by the action of living things (as bacteria and fungi) - leaves decompose on the forest floor.
climate	The average weather conditions over a long period of time.	humid	Feeling very damp due to water vapour in the air.
Fairtrade	Fair trade allows farmers to be paid a fair price for the things they make and to have better working conditions.	native tribes	The original settlers of an area. species A group of similar animals or plants

	Emergent Layer	Trees can be up to 60m tall	Lots of sunlight	Cold and windy	Birds, bats, monkeys and butterflies	
	Canopy Layer	Trees form a roof over the plants below	Lots of sunlight but also plenty of rain	Lots of food for animals	Snakes, toucans and tree frogs	
	Understorey Layer	Trees grow to less than 4m tall	Very little sunlight	Warm and humid	Lots of insects	
	Forest Floor	Very few plants	Almost no sunlight	Laves and debris decompose quickly	Gorillas, anteaters, leopards and tigers	