



Rainforest



Interesting facts

Fact 1	Fact 2	Fact 3	Fact 4	Fact 5	Fact 6
Rainforests are found within 10°N and 10°S of the equator.	Most tropical rainforests get 2m of rainfall a year.	You rarely see any animals as you walk around a rainforest because most animals live near the treetops and some are camouflaged.	Most of the animals of a rainforest are insects. A quarter of the world's insects live here.	Elephants are the largest animals found in rainforests.	Rainforests do not have hot and cold seasons. It is hot all the time.

Key Vocabulary

Canopy	The uppermost part of the rainforest made up of the crowns of the big trees.
Emergent	A tree that rises above its surroundings.
Equator	The lines around the Earth half way between the poles.
Endangered	At risk of being wiped out as a species.
Camouflage	To take on the colour or pattern of the surroundings so that an animal cannot easily be seen.
Tropics	The lands on the either side of in which it is more or less evenly hot all year.
Deforestation	Taking away large areas of forest and using the land as something else.
Continent	A very large area of land.
Understory	The group of smaller trees that grow under the main rainforest giants.
Humid	Air that has so much moisture in it that it feels sticky.

Sticky Knowledge

What is a tropical rainforest and can you describe the different layers?
 Tropical rainforests are hot, moist where it rains all year long. It is many different species of animals and plants. The different layers: *Emergents* are the tallest trees. The sea of leaves blocking out the sun from the lower layers is called the *Canopy*, which contains over 50% of the rainforest wildlife. The *under canopy* contains bare tree trunks and lianas. The *Shrub Layer* has the densest plant growth, which need less light and the *Forest Floor* is usually dark and damp. It contains a layer of rotting leaves and dead animals called litter.

Where are tropical rainforests found in the world?
 Tropical rainforests are located around the equator.

What type of weather would you expect there?

- Very wet, hot and humid, with an average daily temperature of 28°C.
- The climate is consistent all year round. There are no seasons.

Why are rainforests important?
 They are home to some 50 - 70 % of all life forms on our planet. As well as the obvious stunning beauty, rainforests also play a vital role in keeping our planet healthy and flourishing. They are so important because they are home to:

- oxygen - the rainforest vegetation takes in carbon dioxide and gives out oxygen;
- medicines - a quarter of all natural medicines were discovered here;
- undiscovered wildlife and vegetation species;
- food and minerals, eg vanilla, chocolate, nuts, ginger and pepper;
- resources, such as rubber, wood and bamboo;
- river networks.

Geography Skills

By the end of this unit the children will:
 To use a range of sources including digital maps, atlases, globes and satellite images to research and present geographical information
 Use a range of sources including digital atlases, globes and satellite images to research geographical information.
 To observe, record and explain physical and human features of the environment beyond their school
 Use geographical language to identify key aspects of: physical geography, including: rivers, mountains, volcanoes and earthquakes and the water cycle
 To observe, record and explain physical and human features of the environment
 To identify and describe similarities, differences, and patterns when investigation different places, environments, and people
 To identify and describe similarities, differences, and patterns when investigation different places, environments
 Use geographical language to identify key aspects of: physical geography,
 To observe, record and explain physical and human features of the environment
 Describe key aspects of: human geography, including: settlements and land use
 To ask and respond to more searching geographical questions including 'how?' and

'why?