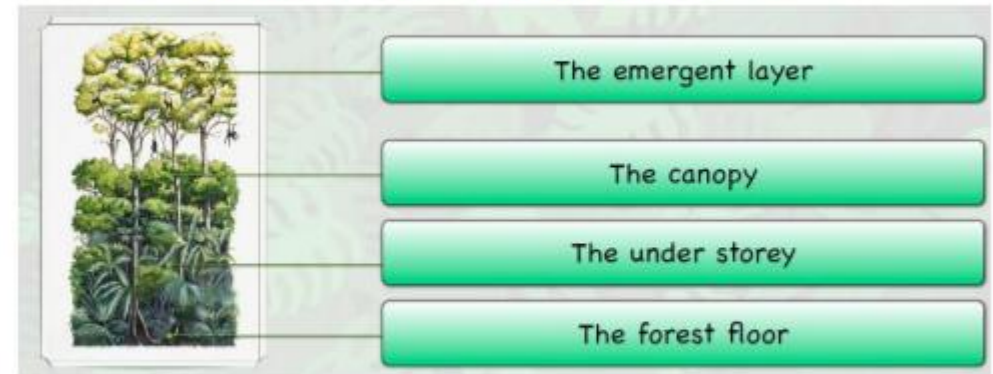


Why are the rainforests important?

Glossary

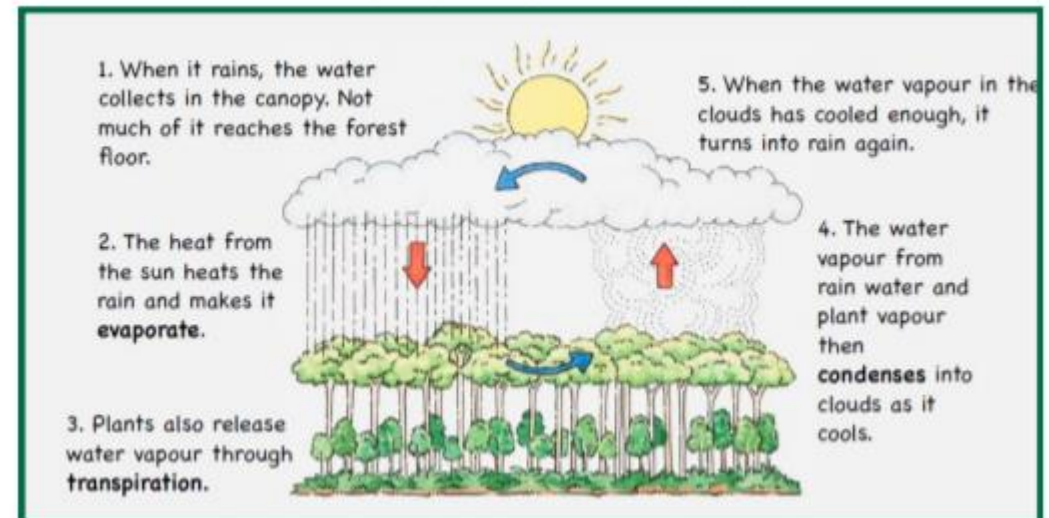
| | | |
|----|-----------------------|--|
| 1 | canopy | Thick layer of vegetation below the emergent layer—the main layer of the rainforest |
| 2 | climate | What an area's weather is like (rainfall, wind, sunshine and cloudiness) |
| 3 | continent | A mass of land on the Earth's surface, surrounded by sea, consisting of different countries |
| 4 | convectional rainfall | Part of the water cycle—when water from clouds heats up and evaporates quickly (creating rainfall again) |
| 5 | deforestation | When huge areas of the rainforest are cut down for timber |
| 6 | emergent layer | The tallest layer of the rainforest where trees grow as tall as skyscrapers |
| 7 | equator | An imaginary line drawn around the centre of the Earth |
| 8 | forest floor | The bottom layer of the rainforest—home to many varieties of insects, frogs, reptiles and large mammals |
| 9 | rainforest | Dense, hot forests found between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn |
| 10 | Tropic of Cancer | An imaginary line above the equator |
| 11 | Tropic of Capricorn | An imaginary line below the equator |
| 12 | under storey | Layer beneath the canopy—home to lots of insects and reptiles |
| 13 | Yanomami | One of the largest tribes of the Amazon who lived in isolation until the 1960s |

Vegetation Layers in the Rainforest



Water Cycle

As the rainforest is so hot, water evaporates and condenses quickly, causing it to rain every day.



| <u>Causes of Deforestation</u> | | <u>Impact of Deforestation</u> | |
|--------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|--|
| 1 | To clear space for farming: growing crops (e.g. soya beans & palm oil) and space cattle to generate cheap beef. | 1 | An area the size of 20 football pitches is destroyed every 60 seconds. |
| 2 | Chopping down trees for wood. | 2 | ½ of the tropical rainforests we had are gone. |
| 3 | To build roads to mine for metals, gold & diamonds. | 3 | 28,000 species of animals are expected to become extinct in the next 25 years. |
| 4 | To dig for oil. | 4 | Local people's homes are destroyed. |
| 5 | To flood areas to make dams & generate electricity. | 5 | Levels of carbon dioxide in the air are increasing and oxygen is decreasing. |

The Devastating Impact of Deforestation

Habitat loss, threats to endangered animals, effects of mining, implications on the environment and conservation efforts.



Charities

Charities have been setup to help protect the rainforest.



Most of the world's rainforests are between the two tropics. These are known as the **tropical rainforests**.



Rainforest Locations



Interesting facts

- Rainforests cover approximately 6% of the Earth's surface but contain more than ½ of the world's plants. About 90% of organisms are found in the canopy.
- About 30 million species of plants and animals live in tropical rainforests.
- There are two types of rainforests – **Tropical** and **Temperate**. Tropical rainforests are generally warmer than temperate ones.
- Many things we have in our homes come from rainforests including: chocolate, sugar, rubber, bamboo and many medicines.

