

Geography - Rainforests



Background information

- Rainforests are the world's oldest natural habitats, and an amazing array of animals and plants have evolved within them.
- The rainforest habitat is divided into layers including the forest floor, (which is rich in nutrients and home to insects, snake and small mammals) the understory, (which is the middle layer where ferns, vines and creepers grow) the canopy and the emergent layer.
- The emergent layer is made up of the tops of the tallest trees, some stretching as high as 120 feet.
- More than a million species of plants and animals live in the Amazon rainforest alone.
- Millions of people all over the world use products from the rainforests on a daily basis including wood, food and plant/oil items used in paints, cosmetics and tyres.
- Our world's rainforests are under threat from a number of sources including farming and industry. It is estimated that 2000 trees are cut down each minute.
- Many rainforest animals are hunted, sometimes to extinction for their skins, feathers or as live exports.
- Groups of people all over the world are working to protect and sustain our rainforests.

Knowledge and Understanding

In this unit pupils will learn...

- To find out what a rainforest is and where they are found.
- To explore the layers of vegetation in a rainforest.
- To investigate the climate of the rainforest.
- To find out about the people and animals of the rainforest.
- To explore why the rainforest is under threat and the measures taken to protect it.

Enquiry skills and Key concepts

- Use evidence to draw conclusions, pose questions and use prior knowledge of map reading.
- Research and describe human and physical geography
- Present findings in a range of creative, cross-curricular ways

Key Vocabulary:

Biodiversity – The wide range of living things on Earth

Canopy – The tallest layer of trees in a forest

Climate – The weather and temperature usually found in an area over a long period of time

Deforestation – The destruction of trees over a large area

Humid – Having a high level of moisture in the air

Indigenous – A living thing that belongs naturally to an area

Monsoon – Wind that changes direction with the seasons

Temperate – Places where it is neither very hot or very cold.