

SOUTH AMERICA: Why does the Amazon matter?

In this unit pupils will learn:
The features of a rainforest
Where rainforests are located

- Who lives in rainforests
- Deforestation and how to protect our rainforest

NATIONAL CURRICULUM

Locational knowledge

- ♣ North and South America, concentrating on their environmental regions, key physical and human characteristics, countries, and major cities
- ♣ identify the position, Equator, Northern Hemisphere, Southern Hemisphere, the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn,

Place knowledge

- ♣ understand geographical similarities and differences through the study of human and physical geography of a region of the United Kingdom, a region in a European country, and a region within North or South America

Human and physical geography

- ♣ describe and understand key aspects of:
 - ♣ physical geography, including: climate zones, biomes and vegetation belts, rivers, mountains, volcanoes and earthquakes, and the water cycle
 - ♣ human geography, including: types of settlement and land use, economic activity including trade links, and the distribution of natural resources including energy, food, minerals and water
- Geography - key stages 1 and 2 4

Geographical skills and fieldwork

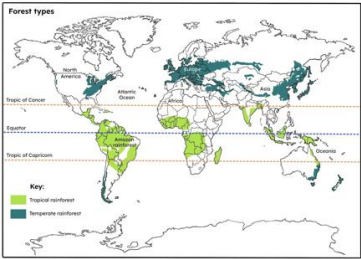

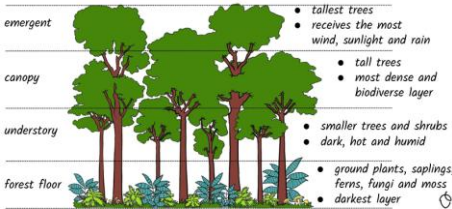
- ♣ use maps, atlases, globes and digital/computer mapping to locate countries and describe features studied
- ♣ use the eight points of a compass, four and six-figure grid references, symbols and key (including the use of Ordnance Survey maps) to build their knowledge of the United Kingdom and the wider world.




Lesson

Brief Overview

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Vocabulary

<p>What are rainforests?</p>	<p>You can explain what a rainforest is, describe the distribution of tropical and temperate rainforests, and make comparisons.</p> <p>Rainforests are a type of biome</p>	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Rainforests are a type of biome that are located in tropical and temperate regions of the world. ● The climate in tropical and temperate rainforests is different because of their different locations on Earth. 	<p>Equator, tropic of Cancer, tropic of Capricorn</p>
<p>Where is the Amazon rainforest?</p>	<p>You can locate the Amazon rainforest on a world map, describe some of its geographical characteristics.</p>	<p>The Amazon rainforest is a tropical rainforest. It is located:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● on either side of the Equator ● in both the northern and southern hemispheres 	<p>Temperate, tropical, continent</p>
<p>What are the key features of the rainforest?</p>	<p>You can use geographical and scientific vocabulary to describe key features of the rainforest.</p>	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● tallest trees ● receives the most wind, sunlight and rain ● tall trees ● most dense and biodiverse layer ● smaller trees and shrubs ● dark, hot and humid ● ground plants, saplings, ferns, fungi and moss ● darkest layer 	<p>Tropical rainforest, biodiversity, climate</p>
<p>What types of settlements and lifestyles are in the Amazon rainforest?</p>	<p>You can compare different types of settlement and traditional lifestyles of indigenous peoples living in the Amazon rainforest.</p>	<p>There are thought to be 350 different ethnic groups of indigenous peoples living in the Amazon rainforest.</p> <p>Each of these ethnic groups is unique, with differences in languages, cultures, beliefs and lifestyles.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● lifestyles. 	<p>Settlements, ethnic groups, colonists</p>

		<p>The Awa people:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • build shelters out of leaves and branches • sleep in hammocks made of tree fibres • burn tree resin (sap) to provide light • use rainforest plants to make medicines • are often named after rainforest plants and animals • live sustainably with the rainforest • are nomadic (move around from place to place) 													
<p>What are the factors which inform the deforestation debate?</p>	<p>You can explain factors which inform the deforestation debate and recognise that some people have more opportunity than others to influence decision making.</p>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Clearing the rainforest means that new houses can be built for people to live in. for</td> <td>Deforestation may result in some rainforest plants and animals going extinct. against</td> </tr> <tr> <td>The trees of the rainforest absorb and store carbon dioxide. If they are cut down, this carbon dioxide will be released into the atmosphere. against</td> <td>Soybeans planted on the cleared land can be processed for many different uses, such as for animal feed. for</td> </tr> <tr> <td>The amount of meat being eaten in the world is increasing and more land is needed for cattle ranching. for</td> <td>Iron and copper mines are an important source of jobs for local people. for</td> </tr> </table> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Indigenous peoples have lived sustainably in and with the Amazon rainforest for thousands of years. The rainforest is their home. against</td> <td>The rainforest is an important tourist attraction and many people visit it each year. against</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Many medicines are made using rainforest plants. New medicines may be discovered in the future which could help to cure diseases such as cancer. against</td> <td>Hydroelectric dams use the power of water to generate electricity. It is a renewable source of energy which is better for the planet than burning fossil fuels. for</td> </tr> <tr> <td>The Amazon rainforest has large quantities of metals such as copper, manganese and iron. These materials have many different uses around the world. for</td> <td>Brazil nuts, which are unique to the Amazon rainforest, provide jobs and money for local communities. It takes a long time for new Brazil nut trees to grow. against</td> </tr> </table>	Clearing the rainforest means that new houses can be built for people to live in. for	Deforestation may result in some rainforest plants and animals going extinct. against	The trees of the rainforest absorb and store carbon dioxide. If they are cut down, this carbon dioxide will be released into the atmosphere. against	Soybeans planted on the cleared land can be processed for many different uses, such as for animal feed. for	The amount of meat being eaten in the world is increasing and more land is needed for cattle ranching. for	Iron and copper mines are an important source of jobs for local people. for	Indigenous peoples have lived sustainably in and with the Amazon rainforest for thousands of years. The rainforest is their home. against	The rainforest is an important tourist attraction and many people visit it each year. against	Many medicines are made using rainforest plants. New medicines may be discovered in the future which could help to cure diseases such as cancer. against	Hydroelectric dams use the power of water to generate electricity. It is a renewable source of energy which is better for the planet than burning fossil fuels. for	The Amazon rainforest has large quantities of metals such as copper, manganese and iron. These materials have many different uses around the world. for	Brazil nuts, which are unique to the Amazon rainforest, provide jobs and money for local communities. It takes a long time for new Brazil nut trees to grow. against	<p>Stakeholder, debate, deforestation</p>
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<p>How can we protect our rainforests?</p>	<p>You can explain why rainforests are important, identify some of the threats to rainforests, and describe some ways in which people are taking action to protect rainforests.</p>	<p>Many people are making lifestyle changes to help protect the rainforest such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • eating less meat • choosing rainforest products that are responsibly sourced • using less paper, reusing paper and recycling it • taking action against climate change  <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;">  <div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; padding: 5px; margin-left: 10px;"> <p>How can people take action against climate change?</p> </div> </div>	<p>Climate, carbon dioxide, water cycle</p>												