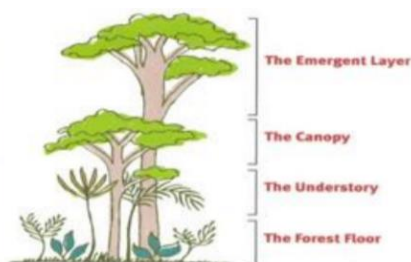


Knowledge Organiser for Year 3 – Rainforests

Big question: Why do we need our Rainforests?

National curriculum specification

- Locate the world's countries including the location of South America, concentrating on their environmental regions, key physical and human characteristics, countries and major cities.
- Identify the position and significance of equator, northern hemisphere, southern hemisphere, the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn.
- Use maps, atlases and globes to locate countries and describe features studied.
- Understand geographical similarities and differences through the study of human and physical geography of a region within North or South America



Key facts/figures

Coverage	Rainforests cover approximately 6% of the Earth's surface and contain more than ½ of the world's plants. About 90% of the organisms are found in the canopy.
Plant life	About 30 million species of plants and animals live in the rainforests.
Types of rainforest	There are two types of rainforests -Tropical and Temperate. Tropical rainforests are generally warmer than temperate ones.
Everyday impact	Many things we have in our homes come from rainforests including: chocolate, sugar, rubber, bamboo and many medicines.
Location	
Equator	Imaginary line through the middle of the Earth that receives the most sunlight
Tropic of Cancer and Tropic of Capricorn	Imaginary lines north and south of the equator. Most rainforests can be found between these two lines.
Deforestation	
Causes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To clear space for farming: growing crops 2. Chopping down trees for wood 3. To build roads to mine for metals, gold and diamonds 4. To dig for oil 5. To flood areas to make dams and generate electricity
Effect	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. An area the size of 20 football pitches is destroyed every 60 secs 2. ½ of the tropical rainforests we had are gone 3. 28,000 species of animals are expected to become extinct in the next 25 years

	4. Local people's homes are destroyed 5. Levels of carbon dioxide in the air are increasing and oxygen is decreasing.
Layers	
Emergent layer	Giant trees that enjoy the most sun but experience high winds cold.
Canopy	Dense layer of trees overlapping each other. Home to most animals in the rainforest.
Understory	Relatively dark, open area below the canopy.
Undergrowth	Also know as the forest floor, mainly consisting of fallen leaves, fruit etc, that decomposes as food for the trees.

Vocabulary/ Tier 3	
Rainforest	A dense forest, normally found in tropical areas with high rainfall. They generate much of the world's oxygen.
Country	A nation with its own government.
Continent	One of the seven large land masses on the earth's surface, surrounded or mainly surrounded by sea.
Eco-system	A community of plants and animals that depend on each other to survive
Deforestation	The action of clearing a wide area of trees
Habitat	The natural home or environment of an animal, plant or organism
Interdependent	When two or more people or things rely on each other
Nocturnal	Animal that comes out at night. Sleeps during the day
Climate	The weather and temperature usually found in an area over a long period of time
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.