

Knowledge Organiser
Rainforests Year 3

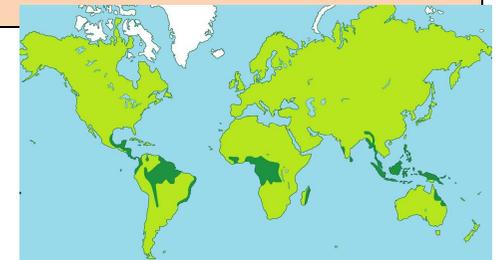


	Key vocabulary	Definitions	Key knowledge
Geography	continent	A large area of land mostly made up of several countries	<p>What I know already The 7 continents of the world are Europe, Asia, Africa, Antarctica, North America, South America and Australasia</p> <p>Year 3 knowledge The Tropic of Cancer is a line of latitude north of the equator. The Tropic of Capricorn is a line of latitude south of the equator. Rainforests occur in the region around the equator in between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn. Rainforests are very dense, warm, wet forests. The largest rainforests are in Brazil (South America), Zaire (Africa) and Indonesia (South East Asia). Temperatures in tropical rainforests stay near 80 degrees Fahrenheit/ 27 degrees Celsius year round. Rainforests receive 400-1000 cm of rain each year. Rainforests are very important in the ecology of the earth. The plants of the rainforest produce most of the earth's oxygen. The Amazon rainforest is the largest tropical rainforest in the world, covering over five and a half a million square kilometres (1.4 billion acres). Over half of the Amazon rainforest is located in Brazil but it is also located in other South American countries including Peru, Venezuela, Ecuador and Colombia. Rainforests are being destroyed for a number of reasons:- local people cut down trees to grow crops; trees are cut down for logging; trees are cleared to create pasture for cattle ranches and land is cleared to create mines for metal and minerals. Deforestation is clearing an area of rainforest the size of a football field every second. If this doesn't stop there will be no rainforests anywhere in the world in 100 years. A time zone is a region of the globe that observes the same time. Time zones tend to follow the boundaries of countries because it is convenient. Brazil is 4 hours behind the time of the United Kingdom.</p>
	hemisphere	Either of two halves of the globe The distance north or south of the equator	
	equator	The imaginary line that runs around the earth equidistant from the North and South Poles	
	latitude	Lines of latitude run horizontally and parallel to the equator	
	longitude	The distance east or west of the Prime Meridian at Greenwich. Lines of longitude run from the North to the South Pole	
	deforestation	The removal of trees from an area of land	
	ecology	The study of the relationship between living things and their environment	
	tropical	Occurring in the Tropics	



Key skills

- Identifying and classifying animals and plants
- Comparing geographical features and weather patterns in different parts of the world
- Explaining plant and animal adaptations



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	Vocabulary	Definition	Key Knowledge
Science – Plants & Animals	producers	Plants are called producers in food chains because they produce their own food	<p>What I know already Plants need water, light, air and a suitable temperature to grow and stay healthy. Flowering plants produce fruit or seeds. Food chains begin with plant-life, and end with animal-life. Some animals eat plants, some animals eat other animals.</p> <p>Year 3 Knowledge Rainforests are habitats for millions of plants and animals. The high rainfall and year-round high temperatures are ideal conditions for vegetation growth. The wide range of plants encourage a huge variety of insects, birds and animals An example of a rainforest food chain could be:- plant → caterpillar → toucan → boa constrictor</p> <p>There are four main layers in a rainforest:- Emergent Layer – these are the tallest trees in the rainforest and can reach 70m tall. They have huge leafy crowns that spread out to catch as much sunlight as possible. Canopy – This is the dense leafy layer with trees about 40m tall. They spread their branches out to catch sunlight and rain. The Understorey – Leafy bushes and small trees entwined with vines make up this layer. It is dark and hot here. Many animals cross between this layer and the canopy above and many are nocturnal. Forest Floor – A carpet of dead leaves forms the base of this dim and shady layer. The lack of sunlight means fewer plants grow here.</p> <p>Rainforests cover less than two percent of the Earth's surface but they are home to some 50 to 70 percent of all life forms on our planet. Rainforests are the most productive and most complex ecosystems on Earth.</p>
	consumer	Something that eats (consumes) things	
	predators	An animal that hunts other animals for food	
	prey	An animal being hunted, caught, and eaten by another animal	
	habitat	The natural environment of a plant or animal	
	environment	The area in or on which people, animals, and plants live	
	identify	To figure out what something is	
	classify	To group. Classification of plants and animals puts them into groups which have similar characteristics.	
	adaptation	The process of changing to suit different conditions	
	species	A set of animals or plants which have similar characteristics	
	ecosystem	A community of living things, together with their environment	
	vegetation	Plants or plant life	
	pollination	To transfer pollen from one plant to another to allow plant reproduction	
dispersal	Spreading things around an area		

