

Year 5 Rainforests





Diagram – Loyers of the Roinforest Emergent Layer Canopy Understory/ Shrub Layer Forest Floor

Key Vocabulary

emergent layer	The emergent layer is the name given to the tops of trees that poke up above the rainforest canopy.
canopy	The canopy, which may be over 30m above the ground, is made up of the overlapping branches and leaves of the rainforest trees.
understory	The understory layer is a tangle of shrubs, young trees, saplings, palms and vines. It is hot and damp here and the air is very still.
deforestation	When forests are cut down and the area is permanently cleared for another use.

endangered An endangered species is a species which has been categorized as very

indigenous Indigenous people or things belong to the country in which they are found.

likely to become extinct.

Biomes are distinct biological communities that have formed in response to a shared physical climate.

temperate Relating to or denoting a region or climate characterized by mild temperatures.

tropical Very hot and humid.

extinctionThe extinction of a species of animal or plant is the death of all its remaining living members.

biodiversity The wide variety of living things on Earth.

climate change A change in global or regional climate patterns caused by increased levels of atmospheric carbon dioxide.

Sticky Knowledge

- Only around 6% of the Earth's land surface is rainforest- but about half of all animal and plant species live there.
- > It can take ten minutes for a falling raindrop to travel from a rainforest's thick canopy to the floor.
- There are two types of rainforests, tropical and temperate. Tropical rainforests are found closer to the equator where it is warm. Temperate rainforests are found near the cooler coastal areas further north or south of the equator.
- > The Amazon rainforest in South America is so big that if it were a country, it would be the ninth biggest in the world.



Example features of a tropical rainforest biome

