

Does the Rainforest matter? - Geography

Key Vocabulary		Rainforest Animals		Map of South America
Equator	An imaginary line around the middle of the Earth.	Macaw bird	Long tailed, colourful type of parrot.	
Deforestation	The destruction of trees in a large area.	Tapir	Similar in shape to a pig. Tapirs live in South America near water and have long snouts.	
Forest floor	The ground beneath the trees of a forest consisting of roots and soil.	Poison dart frog	Colourful frog with toxins in their skin. The skin is brightly coloured to keep predators away.	
Understory	The layer of the rainforest underneath the canopy. It is hot and damp. Bushes and young trees grow here.	Jaguar	The biggest predator in the Amazon Rainforest. Usually a lone, nocturnal hunter which leaps on its prey from above.	
Canopy	A layer of overlapping trees and plants above the ground.	Piranha	These sharp-toothed meat-eating fish can devour cattle and even humans. Attacks are rare.	
Emergent	The top layer of the rainforest. There is a lot of sunlight and the tallest trees grow to this level.	Caiman	Type of alligator. Lie in shallow water and feed on land animals that come close to the water edge.	
Habitat	The natural environment where an animal or plant normally lives.	Sloth	Moves very slowly through the trees, so not to attract attention. Very endangered.	
Biome	A large area inhabited by plants and animals that live together e.g. rainforest, desert.	Reasons for Deforestation		
Indigenous	Belonging to the country in which they are found, rather than being brought there from another country.	Palm oil - produced in trees in the Amazon and used in salad dressings, washing powder and fuels.		
Predator	An animal that hunts, kills, and eats other animals.	Cattle ranches - around 10 million cattle in the Amazon region. Raised for consumption by humans.		
Tribe	A group of people who live together, sharing the same language, culture, and history.	Medicinal plants - curare is produced in the Amazon (used by surgeons).		
Agriculture	The science of farming and the methods that are used to raise and look after crops and animals.			
				<p>The Amazon Rainforest is located in 9 different counties: Brazil (60% of it is here), Peru, Columbia, Ecuador, Bolivia, Venezuela, Guyana, Suriname and French Guiana.</p> <p>Human impact on the rainforest: Many human activities such as logging, mining, fires, war, pollution and cattle ranching have contributed to deforestation. This negatively impacts the planet as the world's rainforests provide us with oxygen.</p> <p>Species of plants in the rainforest- rubber tree, orchid, cacao, giant water lilies, banana tree.</p>