



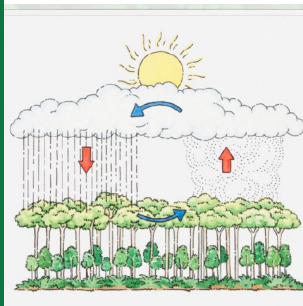
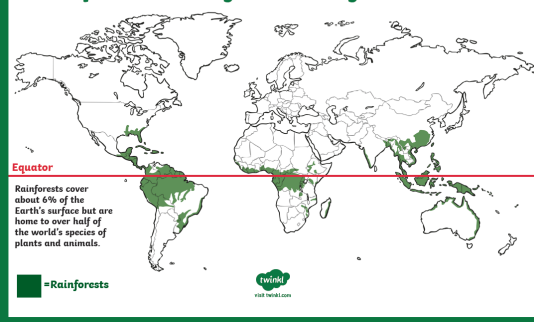
# HOW DO RAINFORESTS DIFFER FROM OTHER PLACES IN THE WORLD?

## Y5-SUMMER 1

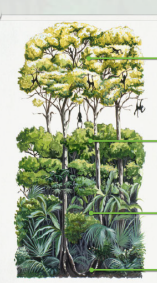
### Rainforest facts

- Rainforests are very hot, humid and dense forests. They are called 'rainforests' because of the high levels of rainfall they get every year.
- They are mainly located within the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn.
- Rainforests are home to thousands of species of plants and animals.
- There are four main layers of vegetation.
- In the Amazon rainforest are 400 different tribes. A fraction of these have never communicated with people outside the Amazon rainforest. They have their own cultures, languages and territories.
- Many trees are cut down to make wood and paper. Large areas of forests are cleared for cattle grazing. Some areas are cleared to mine for precious metals. Trees are also cut down for palm oil.

### Tropical Rainforests of the World



There are several different layers of vegetation in the rainforest.



The emergent layer

The canopy

The under storey

The forest floor

Each layer (or strata) has different temperatures, humidity and sunshine levels and is home to different types of animals.

### Climate

- Because the rainforest is so hot, the water evaporates and condenses quickly, which makes it rain every day.
- The rain that falls one day is heated into water vapour and cooled into clouds ready for the next day's rainfall.

### People of the rainforests

- There are millions of people living in the rainforests of the world.
- These tribal people live a traditional way of life that has stayed relatively unchanged for hundreds of years.
- They get their food by hunting, fishing and growing crops.

### Key Geographical Vocabulary

#### tropics



The region of Earth's surface that is closest to the equator. The line called the Tropic of Cancer marks the northern edge (approximately 23.5° north of the equator); the line called the Tropic of Capricorn marks the southern edge (approximately 23.5° south of the equator).

#### humidity



A measure of how much water there is in the air. Not liquid water like rain, but water in the form of a gas called water vapour.

#### vegetation



The plant life of a region.

#### climate



The weather found in a certain place over a long period of time.

#### tribe



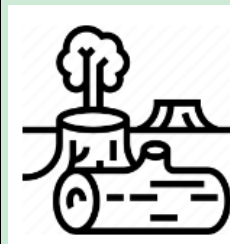
A social group made up of many families, clans, or generations that share the same language, customs, and beliefs.

#### endangered



When a plant or animal is in danger of disappearing forever.

#### deforestation



The clearing, or cutting down, of forests. The word is normally used to describe the actions of humans in removing forests from the planet, rather than destruction caused by such natural events as hurricanes.