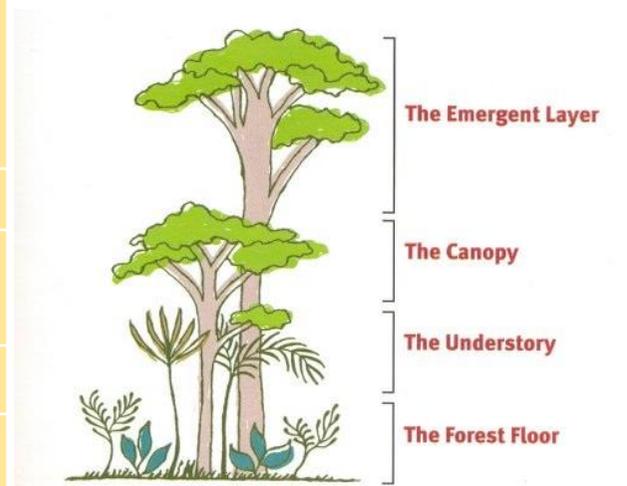


Key Vocabulary and definition

**Rainforest:** A rainforest is a tall, dense forest that receives lots of rain every year.

Rainforests are full of **biodiversity**, meaning there are lots of different species of plants and animals that live there.

<b>tropical</b>	Tropical rainforests are found near the equator within the tropics.
<b>Equator</b>	The Equator is an imaginary circle around Earth. It divides the Earth into two equal parts: the <b>Northern Hemisphere</b> and the <b>Southern Hemisphere</b> .
<b>vegetation</b>	All plants and trees in a specific region.
<b>ecosystem</b>	A community of plants and animals that depend on each other to survive.
<b>deforestation</b>	The action of clearing a wide area of trees.
<b>emergent layer</b>	The emergent layer is the name given to the tops of trees that poke up above the rainforest canopy. It is very sunny here and only the strongest and tallest plants reach this level.
<b>canopy</b>	Dense layer of trees overlapping each other. Home to most animals in rainforests.
<b>understory</b>	The understory layer is a tangle of shrubs, young trees, saplings, palms and vines. It is hot, humid, shady and damp.
<b>undergrowth</b>	Also known as the forest floor, mainly consisting of fallen leaves, fruit etc. that decomposes as food for trees.



Why are we learning this?

- To know what a rainforest is and to know where they are in the world.
- To know how to identify the ecosystems in the rainforest.
- To know that rainforests generate most of the Earth's oxygen.
- To know that rainforests are close to the Equator.
- To know that rainforests are being destroyed.

Why is it important?

To acquire a sense of place, space and locational skills. of the tropics and the major areas of rainforests in the world e.g. The Amazon, S. America.

Learning links

Y2	Climate Zones
Y5	Biomes

