Key Concept Questions

Where are the rainforests located?

What is the climate like in a rainforest?

What are the causes of deforestation? What are the positive and negative impacts of deforestation?

What can be done to protect the rainforests?

What are some of the differences between Sherwood Forest and the Amazon rainforest?

Where does our food come from?

How does Fairtrade work and what is the impact?

Global warming - who is to blame?

What A Wonderful World

(Rainforests and environmental issues)

Red Kites KCV

Geography Year B







Key Vocabulary	
Climate	The average weather conditions over a long period of time.
Temperate	Neither very hot or cold.
Equator	The line that goes round the middle of the Earth. It is the hottest part of the Earth.
Weather	Day to day temperature and rain conditions.
Humid	Feeling very damp due to water vapour in the air.
Species	A group of similar animals or plants.
Deforestation	The cutting down and clearing of forests.
Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn	Imaginary lines north and south of the Equator. Most rainforests can be found between these two lines.
Ecosystem	A community of plants and animals which depend on each other to survive.
Biome	A large naturally occurring community of plants and animals occupying a major habitat.
Vegetation	Plants considered collectively, especially those found in a particular area or habitat.
Global warming	The gradual increase in the overall temperature of the earth's atmosphere.
Fair trade	Trade where fair prices are paid to producers.

Key Knowledge

Rainforests are found near to the equator between the tropic of Cancer and the tropic of Capricorn. They are found in every continent except

They are located in countries such as Brazil, Venezuela, Colombia, India, Peru, Mexico, Australia and Malaysia. The Amazon rainforest in South America is the largest rainforest in the world.

The climate in the rainforest is the same all year round. It usually rains every day and there is an average of 6cm of rainfall each month. It is hot and humid in the rainforest.

Deforestation: Trees are cut down to create fields for farming cattle and growing crops, to produce timber and wood pulp to make furniture and paper and to create space for housing. Jobs are created in logging and transporting timber and manufacturing products. Selling land raises money for local people. People's homes are destroyed. Animals and plants may become extinct through habitat loss. Plants that may have been useful could be lost.

The four layers of the rainforest are the forest floor, understorey layer, canopy layer and the emergent layer.

The Andes is the world's longest mountain range located in South America. The zone where the Amazon rainforest meets the Andes mountains is the most biodiverse place on Earth.

Angel Falls is the world's highest uninterrupted waterfall, located in Venezuela.

There are two types of rainforest, temperate and tropical. Temperate rainforests lie in the temperate zones (between the tropics and the polar circles) of the globe.

Rainforests cover approximately 6% of the Earth's surface and contain more than ½ of the world's plants. About 90% of the organisms are found in the canopy.

Food is grown and farmed from temperate zones, Mediterranean zones and tropical zones.

Many things we have in our homes come from rainforests including: chocolate, sugar, rubber, bamboo and many medicines.

Fair trade enables farmer to protect their way of life and continue farming but in a forest friendly way that prevents deforestation and biodiversity loss. Fairtrade works with farming co-operatives, businesses and governments to make trade fair.

Peru, in South America, has a cool to warm, tropical climate with frequent rainfall and rich soil. This makes ideal growing conditions for coffee. Growing and processing coffee is a difficult and time-consuming task because most of the work is still done by hand. The Fairtrade Foundation offers training to farmers to improve how they process coffee, so they can earn a better living.

Sherwood Forest is an area of woodland in Nottinghamshire in the East Midlands. It is a temperate forest biome and the climate is generally moderate and has district seasons.

Global warming is causing things to happen: ice sheets, sea ice and glaciers around the North Pole and South Pole and in high mountain ranges are thawing; there are more extreme weather events around the world such as long heat waves and droughts in some places and short intense storms with very heavy rainfall and flooding elsewhere; sea levels are rising.

Geography Skills

Locate and name the continents on a world map. On a world map, locate areas of similar environmental regions, either desert, rainforest or temperate regions.

Identify the position and significance of Equator, N. and S. Hemisphere, Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn.

Use maps, atlases, globes and digital/computer mapping (Google Earth) to locate countries and describe features studied.

Learn the eight points of a compass, 2 figure grid reference (maths co-ordinates), some basic symbols and key (including the use of a simplified Ordnance Survey maps).

Describe and understand key aspects of: Physical geography, including climate zones, biomes and vegetation belts.

Identify longest rivers in the world, largest deserts, highest mountains.

Compare a region of UK, Spain and South America and how food is farmed in these countries.