

Key Concept Questions
Where are the rainforests located?
What is the climate like in different types of rainforests?
What are the causes of deforestation? What are the positive and negative impacts?
What can be done to protect the rainforests?
What are some of the differences between Sherwood Forest and the Amazon Rainforest?
What does the UK trade? Where does our food and drink come from?
How does Fairtrade work and what is the impact?
Global warming – who is to blame?
How does human activity contribute to climate change?

What A Wonderful World

(Rainforests and environmental issues)

Kingfishers KCV



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 Antarctica.
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.
Temperate forests are very important to people as they provide enjoyment as well as many resources, including food, timber and oxygen for us to breathe. A threat to this biome is acid rain as it damages the leaves of trees and can cause them to die. Acid rain is caused by industrial pollution and vehicle emissions. Another threat is that trees are cut down for timber and land is cleared for agriculture. Groups like the Woodland Trust are working to protect this biome in the UK.
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.
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.
Our rainforests are not just home to animals and plants, they are also home to groups of people. There are many tribes of people who call the rainforest home but the most well-known are the Awa, Yanomami, Pygmy and Huli tribe.
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.
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 distinct 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.

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.
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.
Trade	Buying and selling goods and services.
Fair trade	Trade where fair prices are paid to producers.
Global supply chain	The journey travelled by goods through different factories, suppliers and warehouses before ending up as the finished product we buy in shops.
Export	Goods which are sold to another country and sent there.
Import	Goods or services purchased from one country to another.
Climate Change	Changes in the earth's climate, especially the gradual rise in temperature as a result of human activity.
Global warming	The gradual increase in the overall temperature of the earth's atmosphere.

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. Longitude/latitude and time zones.
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.
Describe and understand key aspects of human geography, including: types of settlement and land use, economic activity including trade links, and the distribution of natural resources including energy, food, minerals and water.
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.
Human geography including trade between UK and Europe and ROW.