Key Concept Questions

What is the climate like in different types of rainforests?

Could the polar climate be a home for a rainforest?

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

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

How can we support rainforests' conservation?

Global warming – who is to blame?

How does human activity contribute to climate change?

What positive impact can buying fairtrade products have on communities in other countries?

What are the world's natural resources? How has the use of these changed over time?

Is our current use of natural resources sustainable?

What A Wonderful World

(Rainforests and environmental issues)

Golden Eagles KCV

Geography Year B





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 tropical rainforests 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 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.

34 million people live within the Amazon Rainforest and depend on the resources within it. Rainforests 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.

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.

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.

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

The UK has a lot of natural resources, including fossil fuels for energy, crops for food, and livestock for food as well as clothes.

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.
Biodiversity	The wide range of living things on Earth.
Sustainability	To maintain at a steady level without exhausting natural resources or causing severe environmental damage.
Conservation	Prevention of wasteful use of a resource.
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.
Indigenous	A living thing that belongs naturally to an area.
Interdependent	When two or more people or things rely on each other.
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.
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.

Geography Skills

On a world map locate the main countries in Africa, Asia and Australasia/Oceania. Identify their main environmental regions, key physical and human characteristics, and major cities.

Name and locate the key topographical features including coast, features of erosion, hills, mountains and rivers. Understand how these features have changed over time.

Compare a region in UK with a region in North or South America with significant differences and similarities. Understand some of the reasons for similarities and differences.

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

Extend to 6 figure grid references with teaching of latitude and longitude in depth. Expand map skills to include non-UK countries.

Describe and understand key aspects of physical geography including coasts, rivers and the water cucle including transpiration; 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

Human geography including trade between UK and Europe and ROW.