

Year 6 Knowledge Organiser- The Amazon Basin (a region in South America)

Key Vocabulary

Rainforest – tropical woodland, found typically in hot climate areas with consistently heavy rainfall.

Biome – a large naturally occurring community of flora and fauna occupying a major habitat e.g. forest or tundra.

Tropical rainforest – a hot, moist biome found near Earth's equator.

Temperate rainforest – coniferous or broadleaf forests that occur in the temperate zone and receive heavy rainfall.

Equatorial rainforest – tropical rainforest found within 5 degrees north and south of the equator.

Climate – the weather conditions in an area over a period of time.

Latitude – a geographic coordinate that specifies the north-south position of a point on the Earth's surface.

Vegetation zone – an area of plant life with similar groups of plants.

Indigenous people – the first people to live in a land.

Ecosystem – a large community of living organisms (plants, animals and microbes) in a particular area

Deforestation – the action of clearing a wide area of trees.

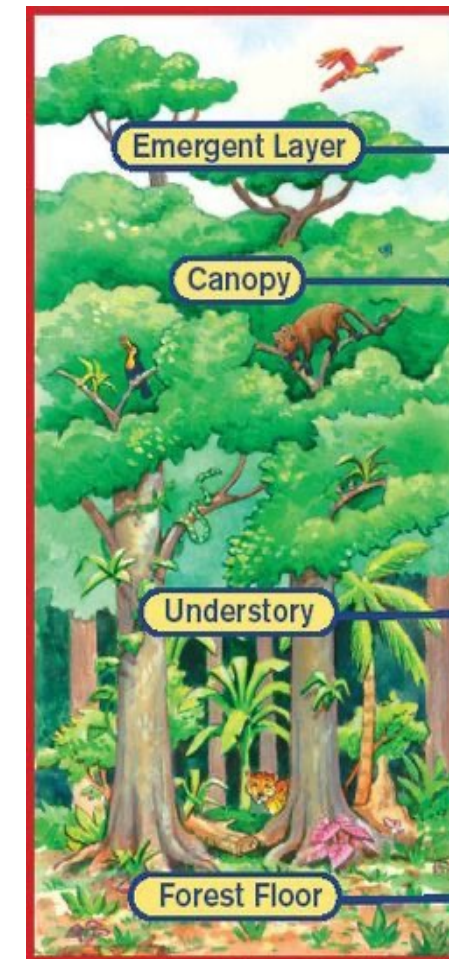
Palm oil – an edible vegetable oil that comes from the fruit of oil palm trees, found widely in the Amazon rainforest.

The Amazon Basin – the area of South America in which rainfall will run into the Amazon River.

Did you know?

- ❖ The Amazon rainforest is located in the continent of South America.
- ❖ There are two types of rainforest: tropical and temperate.
- ❖ The Amazon Rainforest spans across the countries of Brazil, Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, Venezuela, Guyana, Suriname and French Guiana.
- ❖ Rainforests only cover about 2% of the total surface of the Earth.
- ❖ More than half of the world's species of animals and plants are found in rainforests.
- ❖ The Amazon jungle is the world's largest tropical rainforest (about 2.1 million square miles). The forest covers the basin of the Amazon, the world's second longest river.
- ❖ The trees in the Amazon Rainforest produce more than 20% of the world's oxygen.
- ❖ The average temperature for the Amazon rainforest ranges between 18 and 22 degrees Celsius.

Layers of the rainforest



Birds, bats, and butterflies live in the tops of the tallest trees. That is called the **emergent layer**.

In the tops of the shorter trees, or **canopy**, you can find animals such as toucans and monkeys.

Snakes, red-eyed tree frogs, and other animals live in the **understory**, or lower branches.

Animals such as jaguars can be found on the dark **forest floor**.

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Where is the Amazon Basin?

