









Overview:

In this unit, we will learn about the geography and history of the rainforests and how we can secure their future.

Subject Specific Vocabulary	
canopy	The canopy , which may be over 30 m above the ground, is made up of the overlapping branches and leaves of rainforest trees.
emergent layer	The emergent layer is the name given to the tops of trees that poke up above the rainforest canopy.
understory	The understory layer is a tangle of shrubs, young trees, saplings, palms and vines. It is hot and damp here and the air is very still.
deforestation	When forests are cut down and the area is permanently cleared for another use.
endangered	An endangered species is a species which has been categorized as very likely to become extinct.
indigenous	Indigenous people or things belong to the country in which they are found
biomes	Biomes are distinct biological communities that have formed in response to a shared physical climate.
temperate	Relating to or denoting a region or climate characterized by mild temperatures.
extinction	The extinction of a species of animal or plant is the death of all its remaining living members.
destruction	The act of destroying something.
biodiversity	Variety of plant and animal life in a particular habitat, a high level of which is usually considered to be important and desirable.

Emergent Layer	Canopy Layer	Understorey Layer	Forest Floor
			
Trees can be up to 60m tall	Trees form a roof over the plants below	Trees grow to less than 4m tall	Very few plants
Lots of sunlight	Lots of sunlight but also plenty of rain	Very little sunlight	Almost no sunlight
Cold and windy	Lots of food for animals	Warm and humid	Leaves and debris decompose quickly
Birds, bats, monkeys and butterflies	Snakes, toucans and tree frogs	Lots of insects	Gorillas, anteaters, leopards and tigers
			

Exciting Books



Deforestation	
Trees are cut down:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> to create fields for farming cattle and growing crops, to produce timber and wood pulp to make furniture and paper, to create space for housing. 	
Positive Impacts	Negative Impacts
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jobs are created in logging and transporting timber and manufacturing products. Selling land raises money for local people. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> People's homes are destroyed. Animals and plants may become extinct through habitat loss. Plants that may have been useful could be lost.

What can be done to protect the Rainforest?

- Use both sides of a piece of paper and use pencils until they are stubs.
- Use eBooks or a library instead of buying new books.
- Turn off lights and electrical items when not in use.
- Buy Fairtrade fruit, vegetables and coffee.