



## **Physical**

Tropical rainforests grow in a dense green belt around the equator, an imaginary line that runs around Earth's middle between the tropics of Cancer and Capricorn. This region is hot and wet, with temperatures averaging 27 degrees all year round. The Amazon rainforest is the world's largest rainforest with more species living here than in any other habitat. They receive over 200cm of rain per year!

The rainforest has 4 distinct layers: the emergent layer, canopy layer, understory layer and forest floor.

## **Local Area virtual links**

Did you know the Jurassic Coast was once a coastal rainforest and swamp?  
The Jurassic coast begins at Orcombe Point in Exmouth, Devon and continues for 95 miles to Old Harry Rocks in Dorset. It takes in 4 geographic regions – East Devon, West Dorset, Weymouth and Purbeck. Dinosaurs once roamed here and the area is famed for the fossils found in the cliffs and on the beaches of places like Lyme Regis. Temperate rainforests can be found locally and like tropical ones are under threat.

<https://jurassiccoast.org/what-is-the-jurassic-coast/earth-history-and-the-jurassic-coast/>  
[www.lymeregismuseum.co.uk](http://www.lymeregismuseum.co.uk)

## **Human**

The world's rainforests are shrinking fast. When people cut down forests it is called deforestation. In the time it takes to say "deforestation" an area the size of a football pitch has been destroyed. Rainforests are being cut down for timber, fuel, cattle ranching, farming and mining. Many people still live in rainforests and their traditional way of life is being threatened by these changes as well as the loss of habitat for many endangered species

## **Science link**

Plants in a rainforest grow in the same way as plants do elsewhere, except much faster. Plants are rooted in one place and therefore make their food using sunlight energy. This process is called photosynthesis. Plants need air, water, light, nutrients from soil and room to grow to survive. The rainforest contains many different species of animal, many of whom are now endangered. Animals cannot make their own food and get nutrition from what they eat. When their habitat is threatened so is their survival.



## **Website Links**

<https://www.edenproject.com/visit/whats-here/rainforest-biome>  
<http://www.tamarvalley.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Uncover-the-rainforests-of-the-South-West.pdf>  
<https://www.natgeokids.com/uk/>  
<https://www.nationalgeographic.co.uk/environment/2019/05/rainforests-explained>



## **Key Terms**

Equator  
Tropic of Cancer  
Tropic of Capricorn  
Temperate  
Habitat  
Biodiversity  
Tropics  
Predator  
Prey  
Deforestation



## **Enquiry Questions**

Why are tropical rainforests found near the equator?  
Why are rainforests important?  
Why are the world's rainforests under threat and what effect will this have on the world?  
Who lives in tropical rainforests and why?  
Which important animals and plants are found in rainforests?  
What is a temperate rainforest? Where can they be found?