



YEAR 4 – Rainforest

Sticky Knowledge

- Tropical rainforests are found close to the equator where temperatures and rainfall are very high all year round.
- The major areas of tropical rainforests are in South East Asia, West Africa and South and Central America.
- The best-known rainforests are found in tropical regions between the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn.
- The largest rainforest in the world is the Amazon in South America, followed by the Congo in Central Africa.
- To find out how far north or south a place is, lines of latitude are used. These lines run parallel to the Equator.
- To find out how far east or west a place is, lines of longitude are used. These lines run from the top of the Earth to the bottom.
- The Equator is at the centre of the lines of latitude and is at 0° latitude. Anything lying south of the Equator is in the Southern Hemisphere and is labelled °S. Anything lying north of the Equator is in the Northern Hemisphere and is labelled °N.
- The line labelled 0° longitude is called the Prime Meridian or the Greenwich Meridian and runs through London.
- The ancient Maya were a civilisation that lived between 2000 BC to around 1500 AD. They lived in Mesoamerica, which is now known as Southern Mexico and Central America.
- The Maya learned how to clear forests in order to turn it into farmland. Their 'slash and burn' farming method was very successful.
- Rainforests have four main layers: the forest floor, the understory, the canopy and the emergent.
- The longest river in South America is the Amazon River. It flows through Peru, Ecuador, Bolivia, Colombia, Venezuela and Brazil.
- Rivers usually begin in upland areas, when rain falls on high ground and begins to flow downhill.
- Rivers flow across the land, meandering around objects such as hills or large rocks, until they reach another body of water.
- In the water cycle, water evaporates, then condensates in clouds before precipitating and forming rivers, runoff and groundwater.
- Clouds form when warm, moist air is cooled. When the air is cooled, it condensates into tiny water droplets, which appear as clouds.
- Pluvial flooding happens when heavy rain fall cannot drain away quickly enough. Fluvial flooding happens when rivers burst their banks.
- North, East, South and West are the cardinal points of a compass. The needle always points towards the top of the Earth's magnetic field.

Significant Places



South America

Amazon River



Central America

Art

- 3D art can be made through additive or subtractive sculpture.
- Clay can be formed using carving, rolling, pulling, pressing, squeezing, pinching, scoring, hollowing, smoothing and scratching techniques.

Music

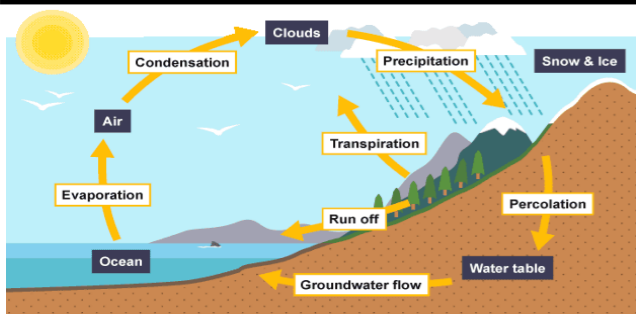
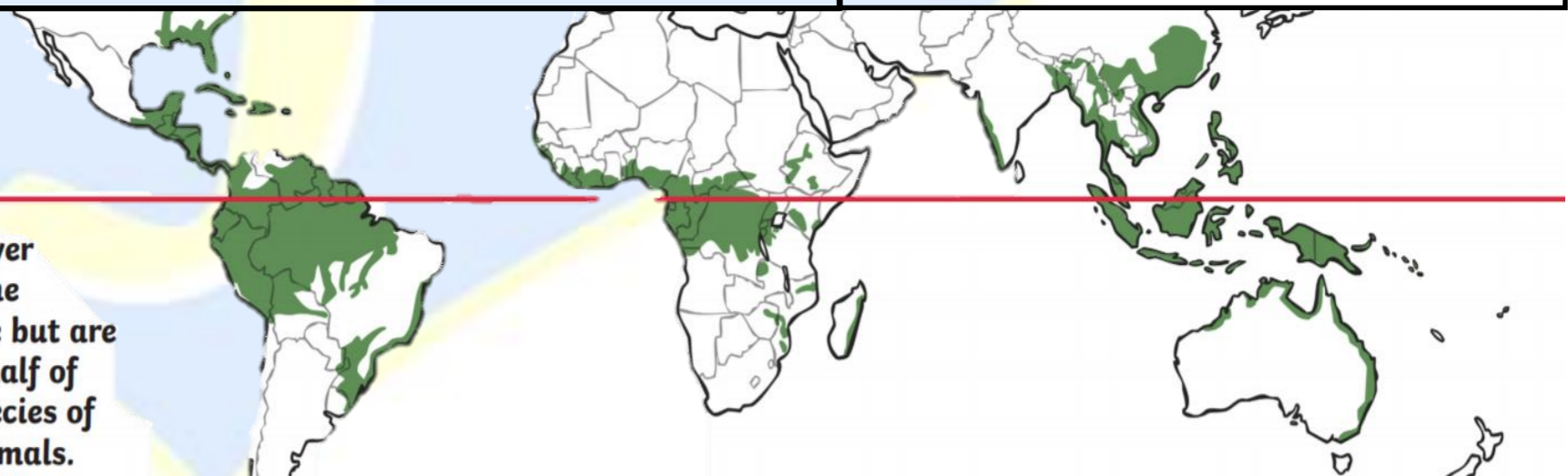
- Samba is a kind of music, dancing, and singing, originally from Brazil.
- Samba is played during street carnivals, which are very popular.

Class Texts

- The Great Kapok Tree
- Journey to the River Sea
- Explore! Mayan Civilisation
- Rainforest Calling

Equator

Rainforests cover about 6% of the Earth's surface but are home to over half of the world's species of plants and animals.





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Cross Curricular Vocabulary

tropical
temperate
Tropic of Cancer
Tropic of Capricorn
Equator
Arctic Circle
Antarctic Circle
latitude
longitude
hemisphere
forest floor
understory
canopy
emergent
Maya
Mesoamerica
meander
source
oxbow lake
floodplain
cardinal points

water cycle
evaporation
condensation
precipitation
percolation
groundwater
transpiration
run off
reservoir
filtration
chlorine
pluvial flooding
fluvial flooding

electricity
components
circuit
conductors
insulators

additive sculpture
subtractive sculpture
carving
rolling
pulling
pressing
squeezing
pinching
scoring
hollowing
smoothing
scratching

ascension
resurrection
Pentecost
Good News
Holy Spirit
Word of Christ
Mission
absolution
Sacrament of Reconciliation
martyr

Crescendo
Duration
Dynamics
Motif
Pianissimo
Pitched percussion
Unpitched percussion