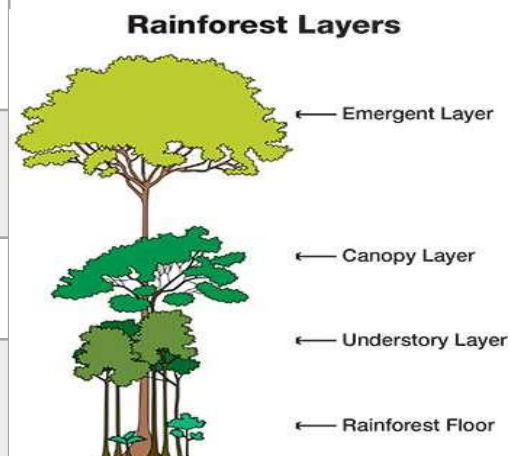
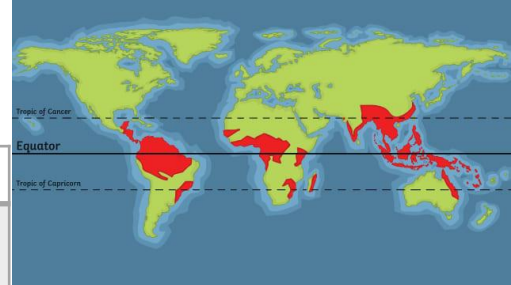




Geography

Y8 Spring 2: Tropical Rainforests





	Keyword	Meaning
1	Ecosystem	A community of plants and animals that depend on each other to survive.
2	Biodiversity	Variety of plant and animal life in a particular habitat, a high level of which is usually considered to be important.
4	Deforestation	The cutting, clearing and removal of a large area of trees.
5	Indigenous	Indigenous people or things belong to country in which they are found.
6	Convictional Rainfall	Warm air at the surface heats up, rises, cools and condenses forming clouds. This leads to heavy daily rainfall.

Physical properties of rainforests

Climate	Water	Soils	Plants	Animals
<ul style="list-style-type: none">hot (20-28°C)Sun is overhead all year round so there is no seasonal variation.wet (2000mm per year)Convectional rainfall every day.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The roots of plants take up water from the ground.Rain is intercepted as it falls - much of it at the canopy level, this will evaporate as it heats up to form convectional rainfall.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Rain washes away nutrients from soil.Soil is not very fertile.Humus layer of rotting leaf-fall is very thin (heat speeds up decomposition).	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Most trees are evergreen.Continual growing season.Five layers: forest floor, shrub layer, under-canopy, canopy (30m) and emergent.Epiphytes (plants that feed off other plants and take moisture from the air) e.g. ferns.Absorb CO2 and release oxygen.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Many species of animals live in the tropical rainforest.Food is plentiful and grows all year.Hundreds of different types of monkeys, snakes and birds.Thousands of insect species live in the tropical rainforest.

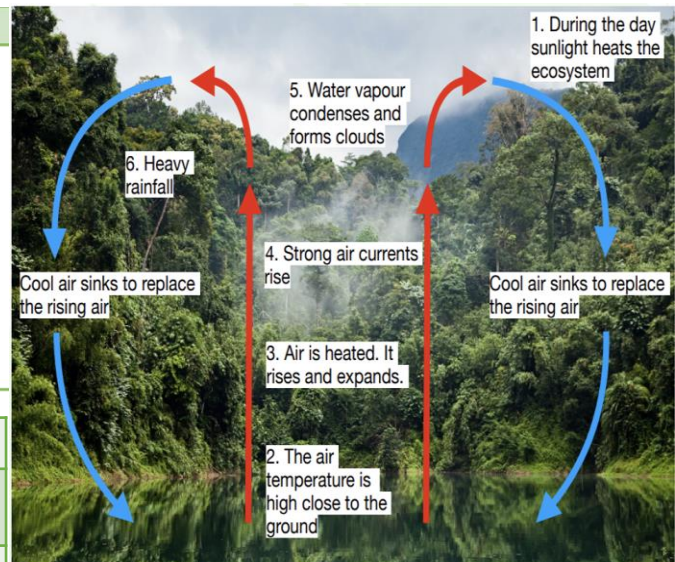
Plant and Animal Adaptations

Buttress Roots	Large roots have ridges which create a large surface area that help to support large trees.
Drip Tips 	Plants have leaves with pointy tips. This allows water to run off the leaves quickly without damaging or breaking them.
Sloths	Uses camouflage and moves very slowly to make it difficult for predators to spot.
Toucan 	Long, large bill to allow it to reach and cut fruit from branches that are too weak to support its weight.

Why are rainforests important?

- Biodiversity** – they contain half of the world's plants and animal species
- Medicine** – 25% of all medicines come from the rainforests.
- Food** - An estimated 80% of the world's diet originated from rainforest plants
- Oxygen** - Rainforests have been known as the "lungs of the world" due to their contribution in providing about 20% of the world's oxygen.

Water Cycle and Rainfall



Management strategies for the rainforest

Selective logging and replanting	Select which trees to fell and then replant later
Conservation and education	Teaching people about why sustainable management is important.
International agreements	Government and organisations agreeing to only using sustainably sourced timber
Ecotourism	Developing areas for tourism
Debt reduction	Clearing some LIC and NEE debts to preserve rainforests.