

Important facts

- A biome is a natural area of plants and animals. The world is divided into lots of different biomes and they are all different depending on their climate.

Rainforests

A thick forest that has a lot of rain



Desert

A waterless area with little or no vegetation



Chaparral

An area that has mainly shrubs and thorny bushes



Deciduous forest

A forest that has trees that lose their leaves each year



Grassland

A large open area covered with grass



Savannah



A grassy plain in tropical and subtropical regions with definition

Boreal forest



A forest made up of coniferous plants in cold areas

Tundra



A flat, cold, treeless area

- Vegetation belts are smaller regions indicating where vegetation grows.

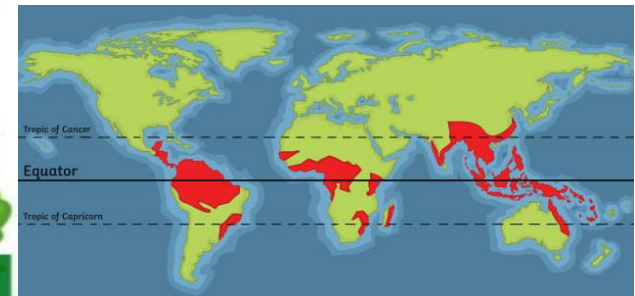
Key Vocabulary

biome	Regions of the world with similar climate (weather, temperature) animals and plants.
climate zone	Sections of the Earth that are divided according to the climate. There are three main climate zones: polar, temperate and tropical.
equator	An imaginary line around the middle of the Earth at an equal distance from the North Pole and the south Pole.
humid	A climate that is very hot and damp.
rainfall	The amount of rain that falls in a period of time.
temperate	A place where it is never extremely hot or extremely cold.
tropical	The tropics have a humid climate where the weather is hot and damp. They are near the equator.
wild	Animals or plants that live or grow in natural surroundings and are not looked after by people.

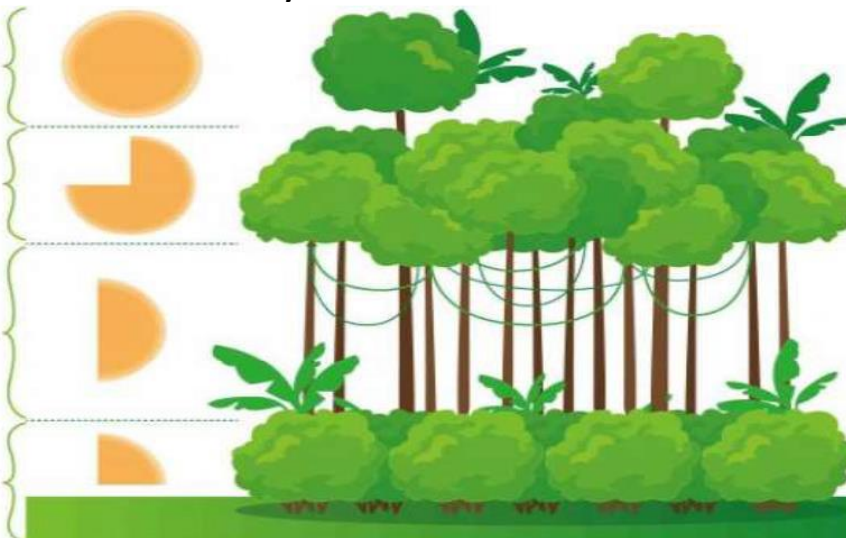
Where are the Rainforests?

Rainforests are usually found between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn, where it is close to the Equator. It is very warm and there is lots of rainfall.

The biggest rainforest in the world is the Amazon rainforest in South America.



Layers of the Rainforest



Emergent Layer

The very tops of trees that grow above the canopy level. There is lots of sunshine and rainfall here.

Canopy

A dense layer of vegetation at around 30-45 metres. It blocks a great deal of sunlight with its thick, overlapping leaves.

Understory

A muddle of intertwining shrubs, young trees, vines, saplings, and palms. It is very hot and damp here, and the air very still. Plants here receive little sunlight.

Forest Floor

Is exceptionally hot and humid, due to the constant shade from the levels above. It is where decomposition takes place.