

CHARLES
DICKENS
PRIMARY
SCHOOL

Brazil and the Amazon Rainforest

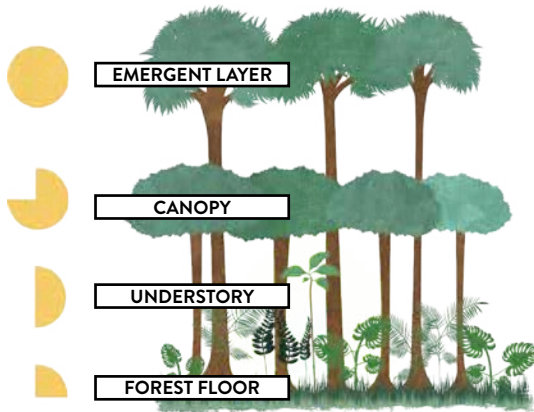


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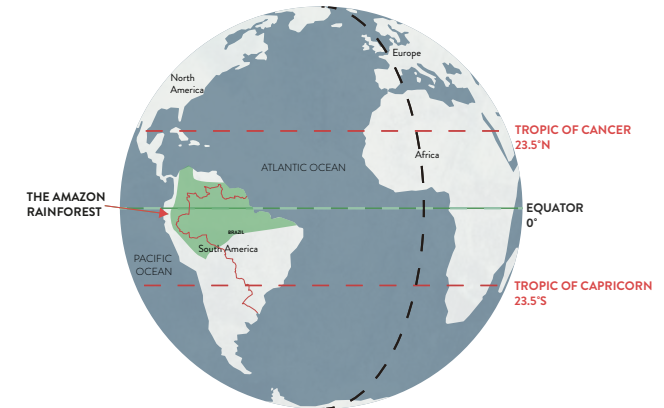
THE AMAZON RAINFOREST AND BRAZIL

KEY FACTS



The Amazon Rainforest

- The Amazon rainforest takes its name from the Amazon, the world's largest river.
- The Amazon rainforest spans 9 countries: Brazil, Peru, Colombia, Ecuador, Bolivia, Venezuela, Guyana, Suriname and French Guiana.
- Tropical rainforests are located in a band around the equator (0° latitude), mostly in the area between the Tropic of Cancer (23.5° N latitude) and the Tropic of Capricorn (23.5° S latitude).
- This 3,000 mile (4800 km) wide band is called the "tropics." Tropical rainforests thrive here because of the hot and humid climates where it rains virtually everyday.
- Rainforests cover just 6% of the Earth's land surface, but are home to over 80% of known terrestrial species.
- The rainforests are important because of the variety of life that they support (their biodiversity) and because they absorb carbon dioxide and release oxygen.
- The rainforest is under threat of deforestation because of demand for wood for timber, as fuel and to make paper; clearing land for agriculture; road construction; the extraction of minerals.



Brazil

- The seven continents are: Africa, Asia, Antarctica, Australasia (Oceania), Europe, North America, South America.
- Brazil is the fifth largest country in the world, by both area and population and is located in South America.
- The capital of Brazil is Brasilia. Other major cities are Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro.
- Brazil is the only country with the Equator and the Tropic of Capricorn passing through it.
- Brazil is bordered to the East by the Atlantic Ocean. and shares a land border with nine countries: Uruguay, Argentina, Paraguay, Bolivia, Peru, Colombia, Venezuela, Guyana and Suriname.
- The official language of Brazil is Portuguese.
- Brazil is the world's most successful footballing nation, winning the World Cup a record five times.

KEY VOCABULARY



- continent:** a large land mass - one of seven in the world
- South America:** a continent - South of North America and home to Brazil and the Amazonian rainforest
- Amazon:** a South American river - the largest in the world
- rainforest:** a biome with high rainfall and warm temperatures
- hemisphere:** one half of the earth. The Northern Hemisphere is the part of the world North of the equator; the Southern Hemisphere is the half of the world South of the equator
- equator:** the imaginary line of latitude running around the centre of the earth
- biodiversity:** the variety of plants and animals on earth
- tropics:** regions spanning the equator between 23.5 degrees S and 23.5 degrees N

LOWER PARTS OF THE RAINFOREST



UNDERSTORY

UNDERSTORY

Most of the understory of a rainforest receives little light, limiting the plant. There are short, leafy, mostly non-flowering shrubs, small trees, ferns, and vines (lianas) that have adapted to filtered light and poor soil.

Animals in the understory include birds, insects, arachnids, snakes, lizards, and small mammals (like the kinkajou) that live on and in tree bark. Some larger animals, like jaguars, spend a lot of time on branches in the understory, surveying the area, looking for prey.

FOREST FLOOR

FOREST FLOOR

Little grows on the forest floor: a thin layer of fallen leaves, seeds, fruits and branches quickly rots and enriches the soil.

As well as insects and arachnids (like tarantulas), the largest animals in the rainforest generally live here, including gorillas, anteaters, wild boars, tapirs, jaguars, and people.



PART 1: THE STRUCTURES OF THE LOWER PART OF THE RAINFOREST

THE UNDERSTORY

THE FOREST FLOOR



Draw an animal that lives in the lower part of the rainforest: