

CHARLES  
DICKENS  
PRIMARY  
SCHOOL

# Brazil and the Amazon Rainforest

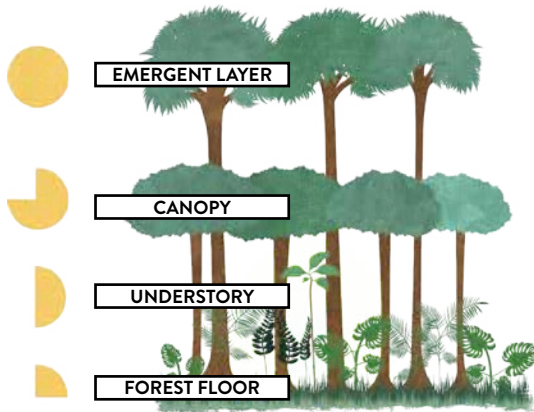


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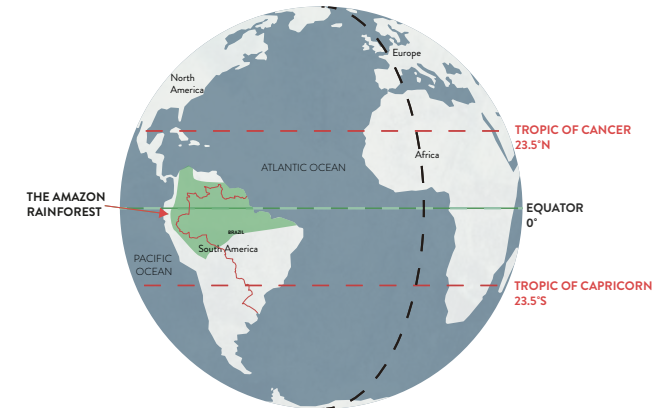
# THE AMAZON RAINFOREST AND BRAZIL

## 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

# WHY ARE THE RAINFORESTS IMPORTANT?

## PART 1: QUIZ

1) Label this diagram of the rainforest:  
 Word Bank: Emergent, Canopy, Understory and Forest Floor

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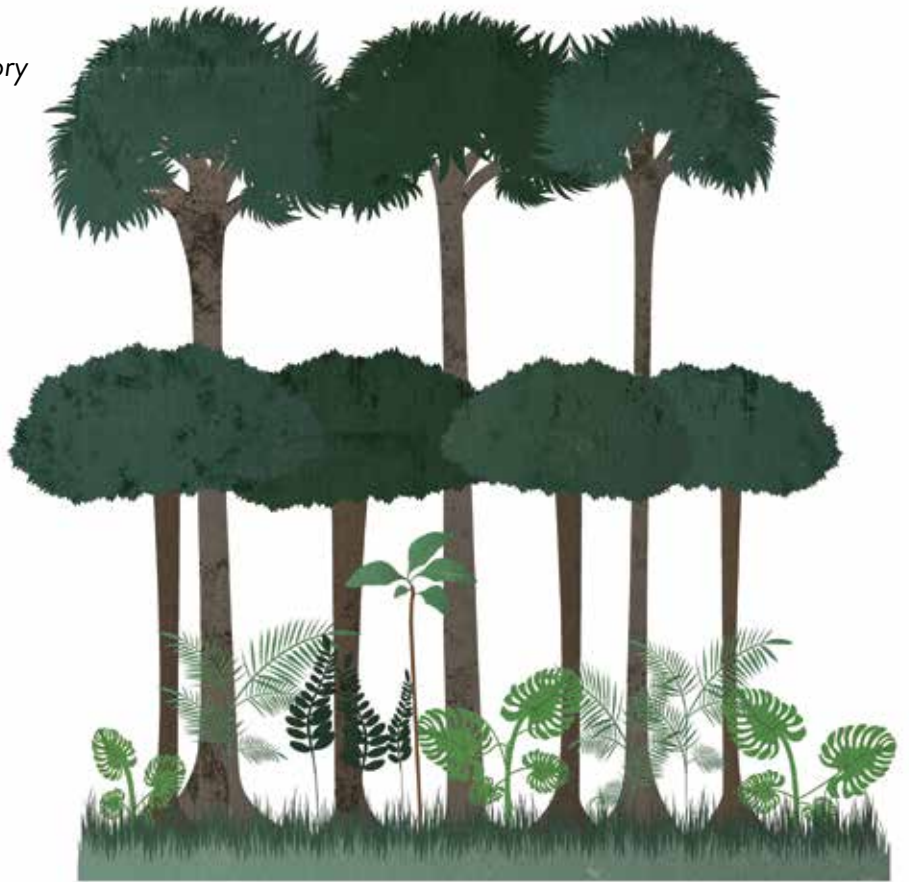
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## GLOSSARY

**The Tropics** hot regions of the earth near the Equator

**climate** the normal weather conditions in a region

**Longitude** imaginary lines around the earth travelling vertically through the North and South poles

**Latitude** imaginary horizontal lines around the earth, for example the Equator

**biodiversity** the variety of plant and animal life on the planet

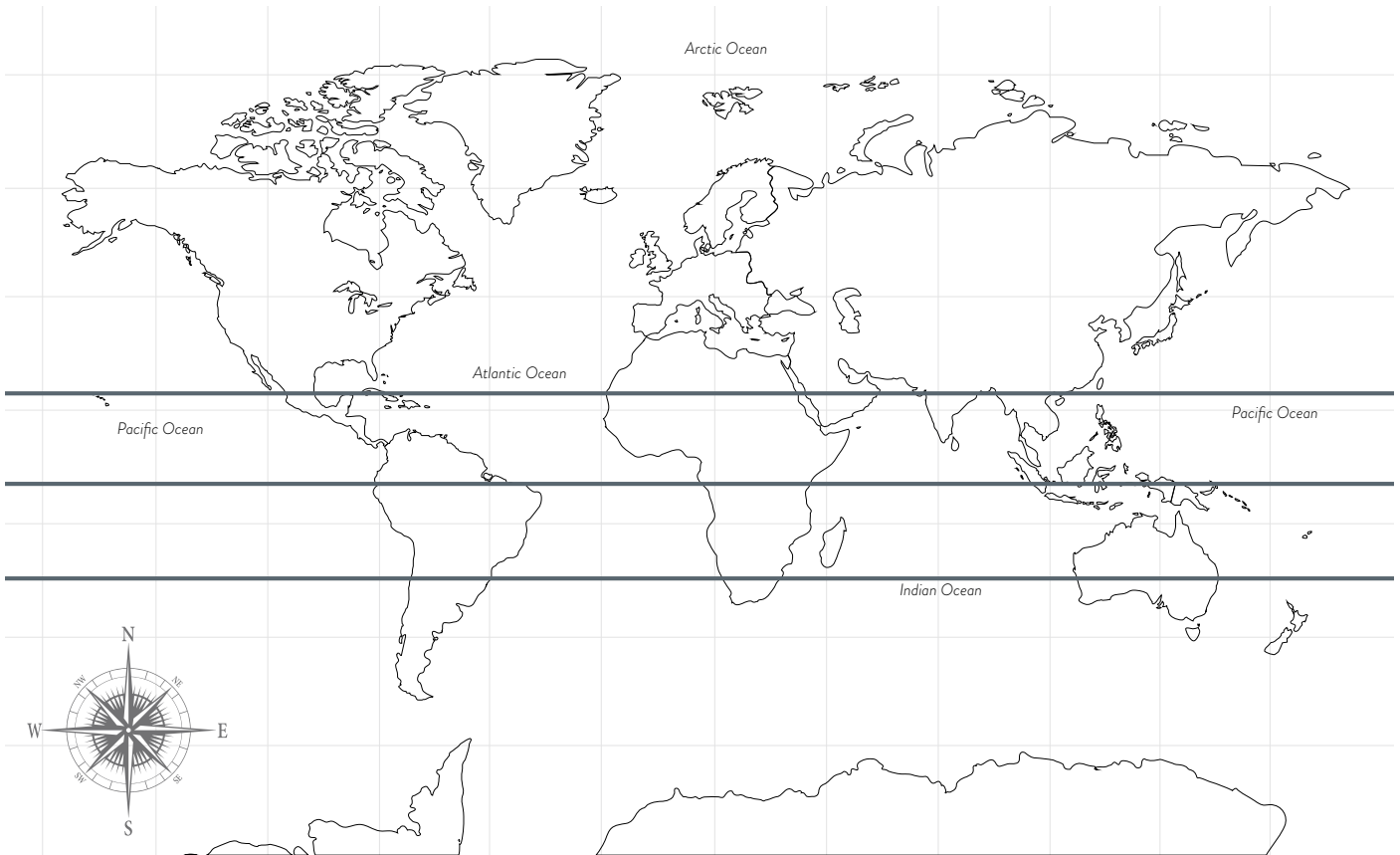


On your map, label the following:

1. The 7 continents.
2. The Equator, The Tropic of Capricorn and the Tropic of Cancer.
3. The Amazon Rainforest.
4. Any other rainforests.

WORD BANK

Asia	Antarctica
Africa	Europe
North America	Australasia
South America	



PART 2: WHAT IS A RAINFOREST HABITAT?



Complete the following sentences:

1. The weather in a rainforest is \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Because it is \_\_\_\_\_, plants grow very well in a rainforest.

# RAINFORESTS



## CLIMATE

Rainforests are: tall, dense jungles with high amounts of rainfall. The climate of a rain forest is very hot and humid so the animals and plants that exist there must adapt to this climate.



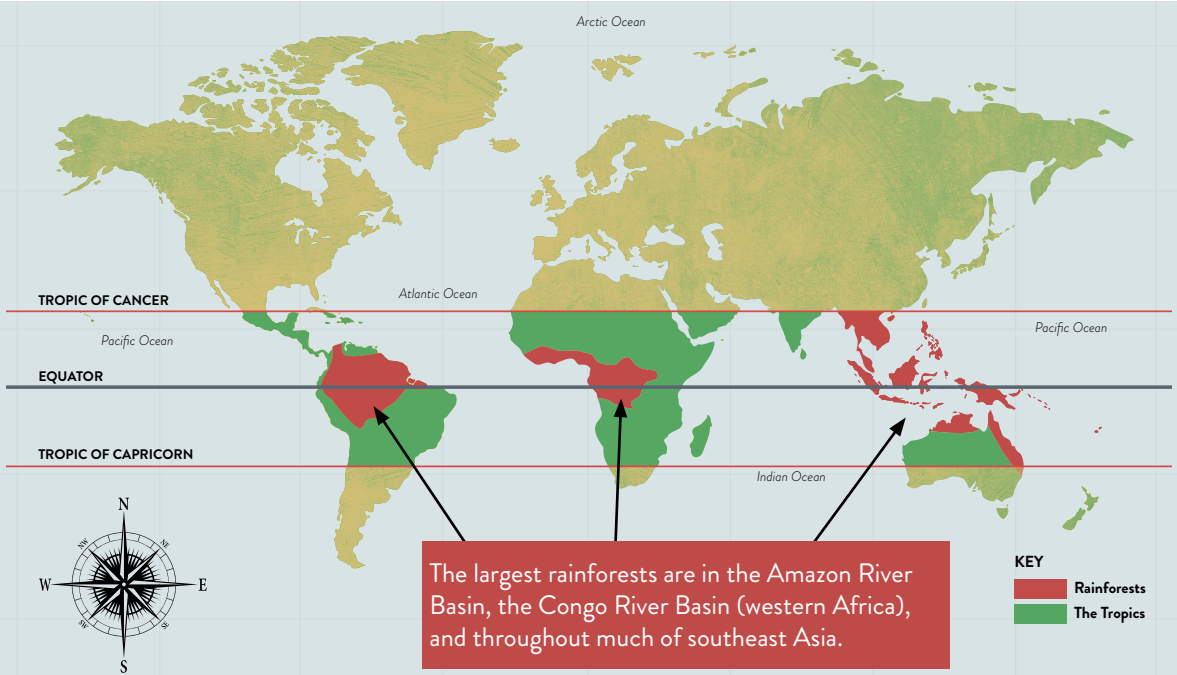
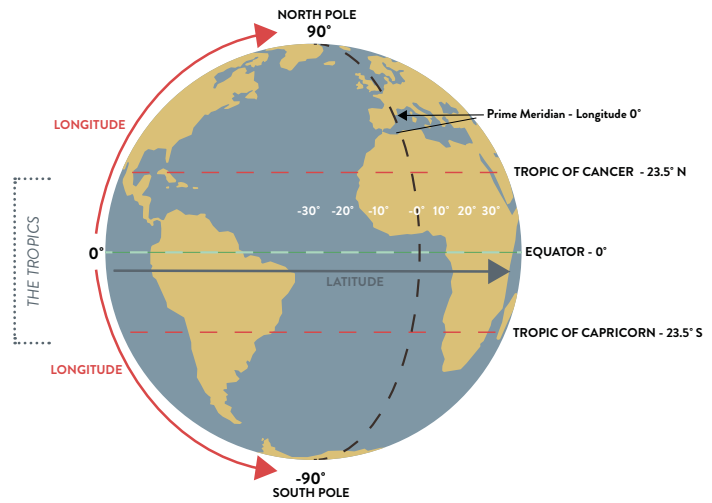
## SEASONS

There are only two seasons in a tropical rainforest, the wet season and the dry season.

## TROPICS

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."



Rainforests cover just 6% of the Earth's land surface.



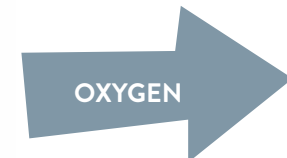
Rainforests are home to over 80% of known terrestrial species



Almost all of the world's chocolate comes from the rainforests.

## THE ENGINE OF THE EARTH

The rainforests are important because of the variety of life that they support (their biodiversity) and because they absorb carbon dioxide and release oxygen.





### PART 3: WHAT IS BIODIVERSITY?



Select One:

- Rainforests are all found around the Tropics of Cancer and the Tropics of Capricorn
- Bio means life and diversity means variety of life, so biodiversity means variety of life.
- How plants absorb carbon-dioxide and produce oxygen.



### PART 4: WHY ARE RAINFORESTS IMPORTANT?

#### WORD BANK

biodiversity  
 habitat  
 oxygen

carbon dioxide  
 climate  
 greenhouse gas

**In your own words, explain why rainforests are important.**

**One reason why the rainforests are important is**

**Furthermore**