

BRAZIL AND THE AMAZONIAN RAINFOREST

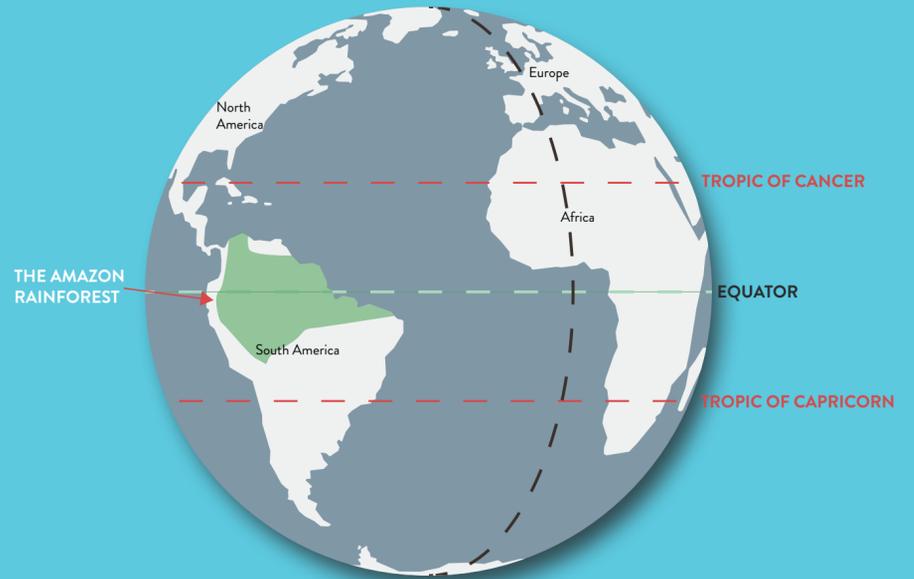
Key Facts

Brazil

- Brazil is the fifth largest country in the world, by both area and population - located in South America
- The capital of Brazil is Brasilia. Other major cities are Sao Paolo 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.
- The official language of Brazil is Portuguese.
- Brazil is the world's most successful footballing nation, winning the World Cup a record five times
- The seven continents are: Africa, Asia, Antarctica, Australasia (Oceania), Europe, North America, South America

The Amazon Rainforest

- The Amazon rainforest takes its name from Amazon, the world's longest river
- The Amazonian 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 (Zero degrees 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.
- Almost all of the world's chocolate comes from the rainforests.
- The rainforest is under threat of deforestation because of: wood for both timber and making farms pulp for making paper road construction extraction of minerals and energy.



Geographical Skills



- Compare and contrast physical and human features of Sao Paolo and Brazil
- Understand and use lines of longitude and latitude
- Use the 8 points of a compass and 4-figure grid references in maps
- Use maps, atlases, globes and digital/computer mapping

Links to the Rights of the Child

- UNCRC - Articles 12, 13, 24 and 29

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:** biomes 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