

# Rainforests

## Sticky Knowledge

What should I know about the Rainforest?

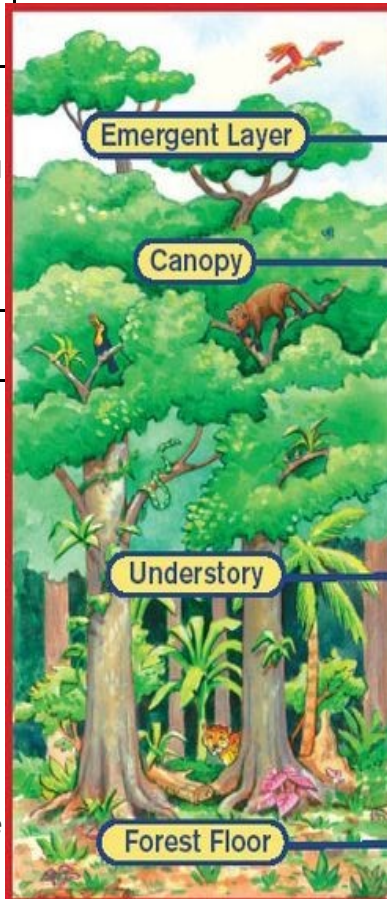
### What Is a Rainforest?

**Rainforest** is a term for a forest of broad-leaved evergreen trees that receives high annual rainfall and is characteristically associated with tropical and subtropical regions of the world. The broadest **definition** of **"rainforest"** also encompasses humid **forests** in some temperate regions.

### Role Of Rainforests

The largest rainforests in the world are some of the most vital ecosystems on our planet. Home to over half the world's plant and animal species, the largest rainforests in the world absorb vast amounts of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, helping maintain the balance of the air we breathe while simultaneously playing a critical role in curbing global warming.

Despite their immense value, the largest rainforests in the world are under constant threat. More than [half of Earth's trees](#) have already been lost since humans first began cutting them down.



Birds, bats, and butterflies live in the tops of the tallest trees. That is called the **emergent layer**.

In the tops of the shorter trees, or **canopy**, you can find animals such as toucans and monkeys.

Snakes, red-eyed tree frogs, and other animals live in the **understory**, or lower branches.

Animals such as jaguars can be found on the dark **forest floor**.





# Subject Specific Vocabulary

<b>Amazon</b>	A river in South America, flowing through the Amazon rainforest. The largest river in the world in volume of water carried.
<b>Canopy</b>	The primary layer of the forest, forming a roof over the understory and the forest floor.
<b>Climate</b>	The weather conditions throughout the year, such as: temperature, rainfall,
<b>Deforestation</b>	To destroy or clear parts of the forest often through logging or forest fires.
<b>Emergent</b>	The tallest layer of trees in the rainforest.
<b>Endangered</b>	Threatened with danger, such as through logging, poaching or threatened with extinction.
<b>Equator</b>	The imaginary line that separates the earth into two hemispheres.
<b>Forest Floor</b>	The bottom layer (ground level) of the forest.
<b>Rainforest</b>	A rainforest is a dense, damp forest with a huge number of different kinds of plants and animals.
<b>Tropics</b>	The two parallels north and south of the Equator.
<b>Understory</b>	The cool, dark environment that is between the canopy and the forest floor.

## Interesting Books

