

Why should the rainforest be important to us all?

Subject Specific Vocabulary			Exciting Books	
canopy	The canopy, which may be over 30 m above the ground, is made up of the overlapping branches and leaves of rainforest trees.			
emergent layer	The emergent layer is the name given to the tops of trees that poke up above the rainforest canopy.			
understory	The understory layer is a tangle of shrubs, young trees, saplings, palms and vines. It is hot and damp here and the air is very still.			
deforestation	When forests are cut down and the area is permanently cleared for another use.			
endangered	An endangered species is a species which has been categorised as very likely to become extinct.	Sticky Knowledge		
indigenous	Indigenous people or things belong to the country in which they are found.	Only around 6% of the Earth's land surface is rainforest – but about half of all animal and plant species live there.	Where are the famous rainforests?	
biomes	Biomes are distinct biological communities that have formed in response to a shared physical climate.	It can take ten minutes for a falling raindrop to travel from a rainforest's thick canopy to the floor.		
temperate	Relating to or denoting a region or climate characterised by mild temperatures.	The Amazon rainforest in South America is so big that if it were a country, it would be the ninth biggest in the world.	Amazon, Brazil	
extinction	The extinction of a species of animal or plant is the death of all its remaining living members.	Today, rapid deforestation threatens the Amazon. At current rates, 55% of its rainforests could be gone by 2030 – a looming disaster not only for the region's plants and animals, but for the world.	Australia, West Africa	
vegetation belts	Plant life as a whole within a certain area. An area of the planet characterised by certain flora.	Fairtrade is about better prices, decent working conditions, local sustainability and fair terms of trade for farmers and workers in the developing world.		
biodiversity	Variety of plant and animal life in a particular habitat, a high level of which is usually considered to be important and desirable.			