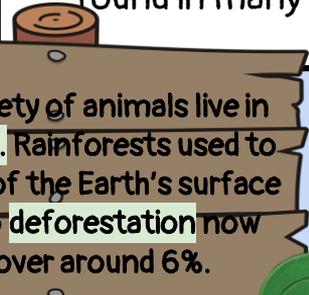


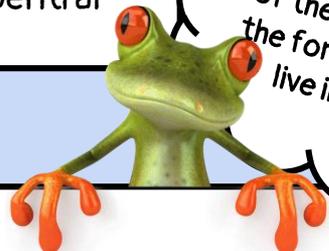
Knowledge Organiser: Rainforests



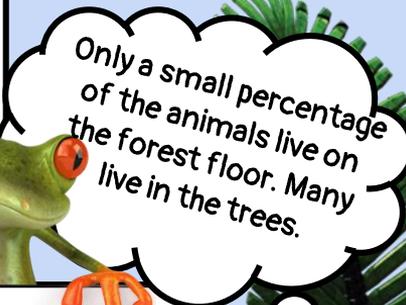
There are two types of rainforest, temperate and tropical. Temperate rainforests lie in the temperate zones (between the tropics and the polar circles) of the globe. They are found in a few regions scattered around the world such as western North America, south-eastern Australia and New Zealand. Tropical rainforests lie in the tropics (between the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn, 23.5° north and south of the equator.). They are found in many areas near the equator such as Asia, Africa, Central America and the Pacific Islands.



A wide variety of animals live in rainforests. Rainforests used to cover 14% of the Earth's surface but due to deforestation now only cover around 6%.



Only around 6% of Earth's land surface is rainforest - but about half of all animal and plant species live there!



Only a small percentage of the animals live on the forest floor. Many live in the trees.



In tropical rainforests, temperatures range from around 27 to 32°C, conditions are wet and hot all year round so it is a good environment for growth.

The Emergent Layer

- The tallest layer - over 40 metres.
- Eagles, butterflies, small monkeys and bats all live here.

Canopy

- The second highest layer - 30-45 metres.
- The canopy blocks out the sun from lower layers and catches rainfall.

Understory

- Low light conditions (2-15%).
- Birds, butterflies, frogs, snakes and lots of insects live here.

Forest Floor

- Very little light reaches the forest floor.
- Lots of insects live here.



Vocabulary	Meaning
Tropical	Hot and humid
Temperate	moderate in respect to temperature; not subject to prolonged extremes of hot or cold weather.
Equator	the great circle of the earth that is equidistant from the North Pole and South Pole.
Rainforest	a tropical forest, usually of tall, densely growing, broad-leaved evergreen trees in an area of high annual rainfall
Deforestation	to divest or clear of forests or trees.
Species	Biological classification of , composed of related individuals that resemble one another