

## Location

Rainforests are found around the equator, between the tropics of Cancer and Capricorn. The Amazon rainforest is on the continent of **South America**. It spreads across nine countries namely Brazil, Ecuador, Venezuela, Suriname, Peru, Colombia, Bolivia, Guyana, and French Guiana

## Climate

Rainforests are named as such because of the heavy rainfall, high humidity and hot temperatures. The climate is the same all year round. It rains every day, with the average monthly rainfall being 6cm.



# South America Amazon Rainforest

(Geography)

## Rainforests of the World Map



Rainforests are Earth's oldest living ecosystems. They are incredibly diverse and complex, home to more than half the world's plant and animal species, even though they cover just 6% of the Earth's surface.

There are two types of rainforests - Tropical and Temperate. Tropical rainforests are generally warmer than temperate ones. The Amazon rainforest, in South America, is a tropical rainforest.

## Key Vocabulary

Rainforest	A dense forest, normally found in tropical areas with high rainfall. They generate much of the world's oxygen.
Equator	Imaginary line through the middle of the Earth that receives the most sunlight
Ecosystem	A community of plants and animals that depend on each other to survive.
Tropic of Cancer Tropic of Capricorn	Imaginary lines north and south of the equator. Most rainforests can be found between these two lines.
Continent	One of the seven large land masses on the earth's surface, surrounded or mainly surrounded by sea.
Climate	The weather and temperature usually found in an area over a long period of time.
Weather	Weather is the specific condition on a given day (which may or may not be typical for a climate).
Habitat	The natural home or environment of an animal, plant or organism.
Humid	Having a high level of moisture in the air.
Indigenous	A living thing that belongs naturally to an area.
Deforestation	The action of clearing a wide area of trees.

## Physical Features

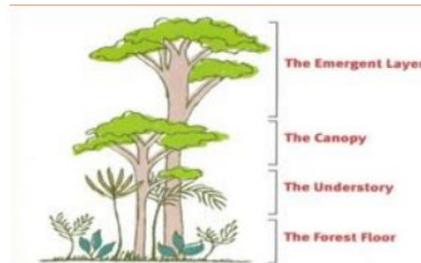
### Amazon river.

The Amazon river is the widest and second longest river in the world. In places it is wider than six miles - that's the length of over 15,000 buses parked one in front of the other! It is home to fish, dolphins, otters, turtles, snakes and caimans which are like crocodiles.



### Forest.

There are 4 different levels.  
 The Emergent Layer - giant trees that enjoy the most sun but experience high winds.  
 Canopy - dense layer of trees overlapping each other. Home to most animals in the rainforest.  
 Understory - relatively dark, open area below the canopy.  
 Undergrowth - also known as the forest floor, mainly consisting of fallen leaves, fruit etc, that decomposes as food for the trees.



## Human Features

### Indigenous tribes.

The native Amazon Indians who live in the rainforest, use small areas of forest for farming. They also use the rainforest for hunting and fishing.

### Deforestation.

Large scale deforestation by logging, ranching, farming and mining have destroyed large areas of rainforest with the loss of thousands of species of animals and plants.