

Rainforests

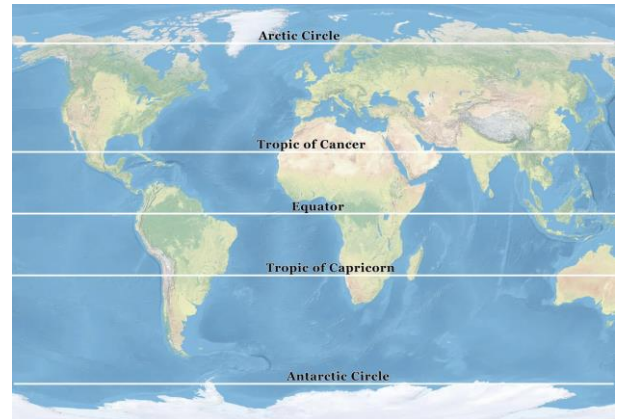
Lines of latitude

Equator: An imaginary line around the middle of the Earth, equidistant from the North and South Poles.

Northern and Southern Hemispheres: two halves of the Earth, separated by the Equator.

Tropic of Cancer: The Tropic of Cancer is the most northern latitude on the Earth where the sun can appear directly overhead.

Tropic of Capricorn: The Tropic of Capricorn is the most southern latitude on the Earth where the sun can appear directly overhead.



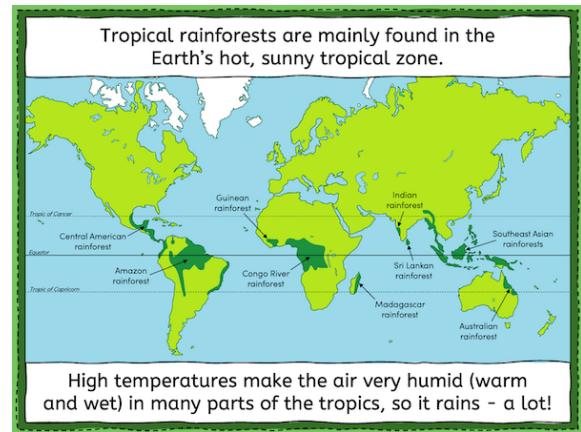
Rainforest Biome

Biome: Areas of our planet with similar climates, landscapes, animals and plants.

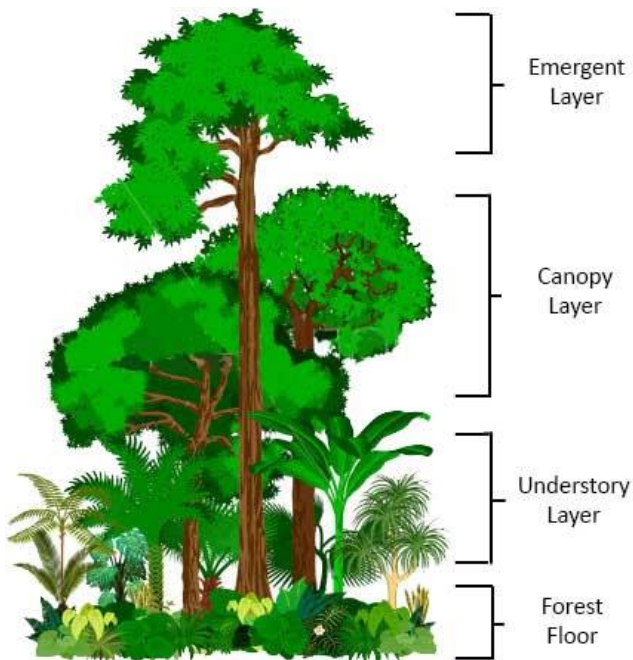
Tropical Rainforest: Tropical rainforests lie near the Equator. This biome has hot, wet conditions all year long. Tall, tropical trees and many other plants grow there.

Biodiversity: The variety of animal and plant life in any environment.

Deforestation: The clearing or cutting of trees in a large area.



Layers of the Rainforest



The emergent layer: Trees in the emergent layer can grow as tall as skyscrapers and have thin trunks. The emergent layer is home to lots of birds, monkeys and insects.

The canopy layer: This is a thick layer of vegetation below the emergent layer. It is made up of leaves and branches from the canopy trees. This is the main layer of the rainforest and most of the animals live here.

The understory: This is a dark, damp place because the canopy blocks most of the sunlight. Because there isn't much light, only small shrubs and trees can grow there. The understory is home to lots of insects and reptiles.

The forest floor: The bottom level of the rainforest. Many insects make their home on the forest floor. The forest floor is also home to large mammals, like anteaters.