

## Scientific and geographical vocabulary

	Term	Definition
1	<i>Rainforest</i>	A dense forest, normally found in tropical areas with high rainfall. They generate much of the world's oxygen.
2	<i>Country</i>	A nation with its own government e.g. UK, USA, Germany, Denmark, Brazil, China.
3	<i>Continent</i>	The world's main continuous pieces of land (Africa, Asia, Australasia, Europe, North America, South America, Antarctica).
4	<i>Ecosystem</i>	A community of plants and animals that depend on each other to survive.
5	<i>Deforestation</i>	The action of clearing a wide area of trees.
6	<i>Habitat</i>	The natural home or environment of an animal, plant or organism.
7	<i>Interdependent</i>	When two or more people or things rely on each other.

## Causes of Deforestation

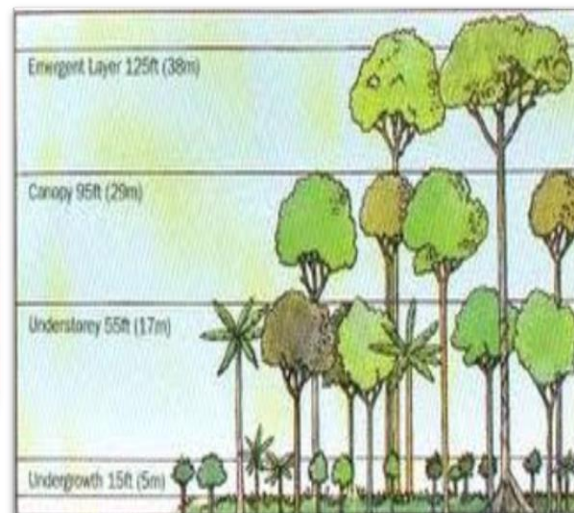
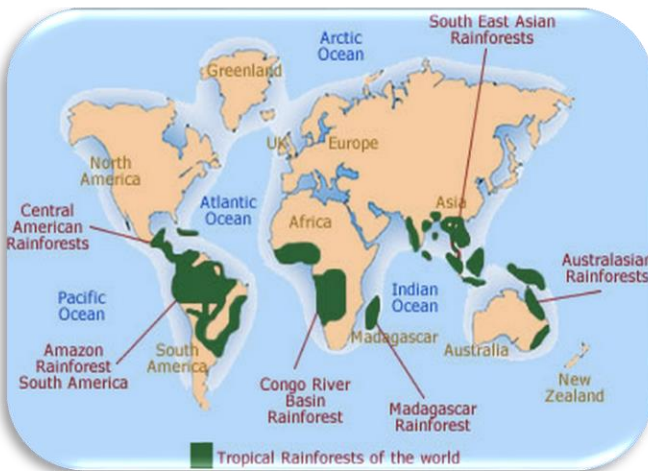
1	<i>To clear space for farming: growing crops (e.g. soya beans &amp; palm oil) and space cattle to generate cheap beef.</i>
2	<i>Chopping down trees for wood.</i>
3	<i>To build roads to mine for metals, gold &amp; diamonds.</i>
4	<i>To dig for oil.</i>
5	<i>To flood areas to make dams &amp; generate electricity.</i>

## Impact of Deforestation

1	<i>An area the size of 20 football pitches is destroyed every 60 seconds.</i>
2	<i>½ of the tropical rainforests we had are gone.</i>
3	<i>28,000 species of animals are expected to become extinct in the next 25 years.</i>
4	<i>Local people's homes are destroyed.</i>
5	<i>Levels of carbon dioxide in the air are increasing and oxygen is decreasing.</i>

## Location, Layers and features

1	Equator	Imaginary line through the middle of the Earth that receives the most sunlight.
2	Tropic of Cancer Tropic of Capricorn	Imaginary lines north and south of the equator. Most rainforests can be found between these two lines.
3	<i>Emergent Layer</i>	Giant trees that enjoy the most sun but high winds & cold.
4	<i>Canopy</i>	Dense layer of trees overlapping each other. Home to most animals in rainforests.
5	<i>Understory</i>	Relatively dark, open area below the canopy.
6	<i>Undergrowth</i>	Also known as the forest floor, mainly consisting of fallen leaves, fruit etc. that decomposes as food for trees.
7	<i>Flora &amp; Fauna</i>	Flora = Plants; Fauna = Animals.
8	<i>Nocturnal</i>	Animal that comes out at night. Sleeps during the day.
9	<i>Camouflage</i>	Blending in to hide in the natural environment.
10	<i>Mimicry</i>	Copying the look, sound or behaviour of something.



## Interesting facts

1	Rainforests cover approximately 6% of the Earth's surface but contain more than ½ of the world's plants. About 90% of organisms are found in the canopy.
2	About 30 million species of plants and animals live in tropical rainforests.
3	There are two types of rainforests – <b>Tropical</b> and <b>Temperate</b> . Tropical rainforests are generally warmer than temperate ones.
4	Many things we have in our homes come from rainforests including: chocolate, sugar, rubber, bamboo and many medicines.