

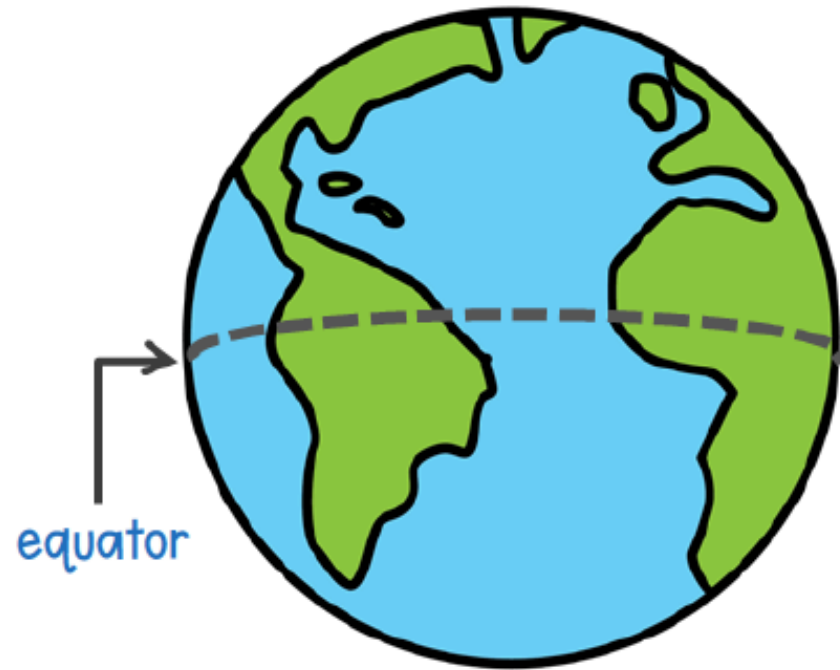
The Tropical Rainforest

Tropical Rainforests are close to the equator making them hot, humid, and wet all year. They are the richest habitats on Earth providing the perfect setting for wildlife and plants to flourish. Probably the best known is the Amazon Rainforest which is located in South America. Rainforests are very important for all species on Earth because they provide about 20% of the Earth's oxygen supply.



The Tropical Rainforest

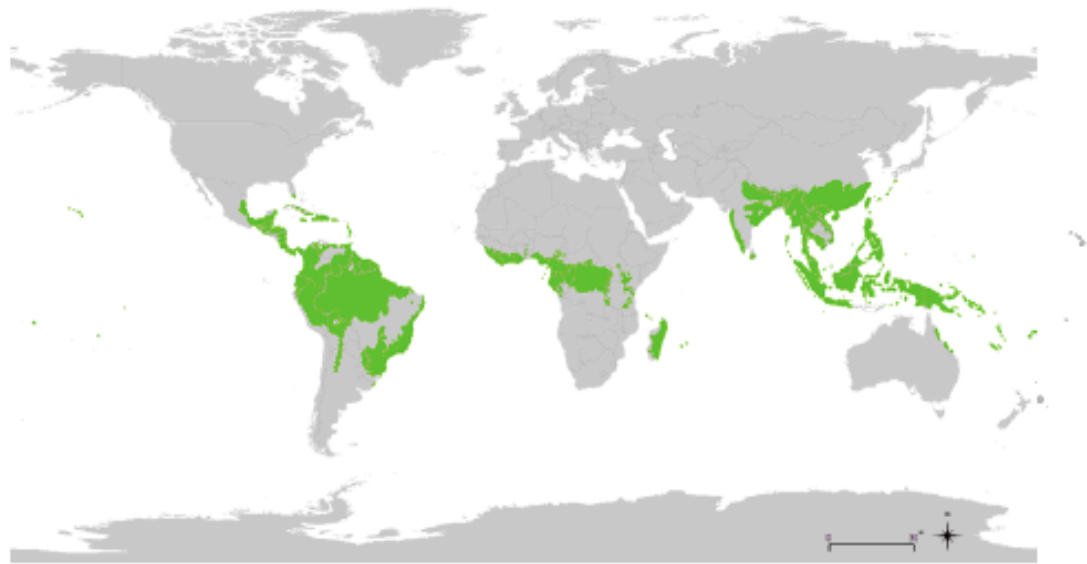
Tropical rainforests are hot and rainy. They are located near the equator, and typically receive 60 to 160 inches of rain each year. The largest **tropical rainforests** are in South America, Southeast Asia, and Africa.



Rainforests: Location

There are two types of rainforest biomes: temperate and tropical rainforests.

Tropical Rainforest
(can be found around the world)



Temperate Rainforest
(covers 6-7% of earth's land surface)





LOCATION

From Central and South America
Western Africa, eastern
Madagascar, to the Zaire basin
rainforest can be found all over the
world. Rainforest are sometimes
called tropical rainforest and cover
about 6-7% of the earth's land.



CLIMATE

A tropical rainforest is warm all year long. The average temperature is between 70 to 85 °F. Rainforests are usually very wet and get 80 to 400 inches of rain a year

Rainforests: Weather

Rainforests help maintain global weather patterns and rain. There are many trees in rainforests, so when water evaporates from trees, they fall in other areas as rain.

Tropical Rainforest

- Warm and lush the entire year
- Very wet and high humidity
- Yearly rainfall: 80 to 400 inches




Temperate Rainforest

- Temperatures a lot cooler than tropical rainforest but still mild
- Wet but not as rainy as tropical
- Yearly rainfall: 60 to 200 inches




Rainforest Layers



There are four layers in a rainforest. The emergent layer, the canopy, the understory and the forest floor.

Emergent Layer

A photograph of a dense forest with a prominent tall tree in the center, illustrating the emergent layer. The tree is significantly taller than the surrounding canopy, reaching towards the sky. The forest floor is a thick layer of green foliage.

The emergent layer is the giant trees that reach up higher than all the other trees. Many birds and insects live in this top layer.

The Canopy

An aerial photograph of a dense forest, showing a thick layer of green tree leaves and branches that form the canopy. The trees are packed closely together, creating a continuous green surface. The lighting is bright, highlighting the various shades of green and some brownish tones on the branches and leaves.

The canopy is the upper layer of tree leaves and branches. It forms a thick cover above the lower layers. The canopy is home to many insects, birds, reptiles and mammals.

The Understory

A photograph of a lush forest understory. The scene is filled with tall, mature trees with thick, gnarled trunks and dense green foliage. In the foreground, there is a thick carpet of various ferns and other green plants. The lighting is bright, suggesting a sunny day, with sunlight filtering through the canopy.

The understory has shorter, young trees and some shrubs and bushes.

The Forest Floor

The forest floor is the bottom layer of the rainforest. Only 1% of sunlight reaches the forest floor, so plant growth is limited here. Many animals and insects live on the forest floor.



Diversity


A photograph of a dense rainforest. The scene is filled with tall, slender trees with thick canopies of green leaves. Sunlight filters through the canopy, creating dappled light on the forest floor. The ground is covered with various types of ferns and other lush vegetation. The overall atmosphere is vibrant and teeming with life.

About 30 million different kinds of plants and animals live in the rain forest.
The rain forests hold more than two-thirds of the world's plant species.

LIFE

Rainforests are full of plants, trees, and animals. Most trees in a rain forest have smooth bark because the environment is so wet and they don't dry out easily. Trees grow tall to reach the sunlight. Animals often live in trees like monkeys and birds. Some animals are brightly colored and make loud noises to scare off other animals. Parrots, toucans, butterflies, ants, bobcats and apes are all examples of animals you might find in a rainforest.



A vibrant tropical rainforest scene. In the foreground, a large tree trunk is covered in moss and vines. A blue and yellow parrot is perched on a branch, looking down. The background is filled with lush green foliage and a glimpse of a blue sky. The text is overlaid on the upper part of the image.

Why is there so much life in the rain forest? The tropical rain forests are all located in places that are warm and rainy. It never snows and the temperature never drops much below 70 degrees. Some places get 1 inch of rain or more every day. All this rain and warmth helps plants grow. When many plants grow, animals have plenty to eat.

Rain Forest Life



Everything seems bigger in the rainforest. In the rainforest, huge trees and plants with large leaves grow. Brightly colored birds and tree frogs live there. The rain forests have more kinds of plants and animals than anywhere else on earth.

Rainforests: Plants

A very common plant found in the rainforest is called an epiphyte. Epiphytes are plants that live on surfaces of other plants. They mostly grow on trees.

Tropical Rainforest

Most common epiphytes:
Orchids and bromeliads



Orchids



Bromeliads

Temperate Rainforest

Most common epiphytes:
Mosses and ferns



Mosses



Ferns

Rainforest Gifts

Many of the foods we love come from the rain forest. Chocolate, pineapple and cinnamon all come from rain forests. Rubber and medicines also come from rain forests.



Rainforests: Trees

Tropical Rainforest

- 100s of species of trees
- Mostly broadleaf trees with thin smooth bark.
- Trees in this rainforest live for 50 to 100 years.



Temperate Rainforest

- 10-20 species of trees
- Mostly coniferous trees (triangular shape and the leaves can be long pointy needles)
- Trees in this rainforest can live up to 1000 years!



Rainforests: Animals

Tropical Rainforest

- Half of the animal species on earth live in tropical rainforests!
- Most of the animals live high up on the trees.
- Animals: Monkeys, Birds (parrots), Insects (Butterflies, mosquitos, ants)



Parrot



Monkey



Cougars

Temperate Rainforest

- Most of the animals live on or near the floor to protect themselves from wind and rain.
- Animals: birds, chipmunks, deer, cougar, and bobcats
- Cougars and bobcats are the top predators in this biome.



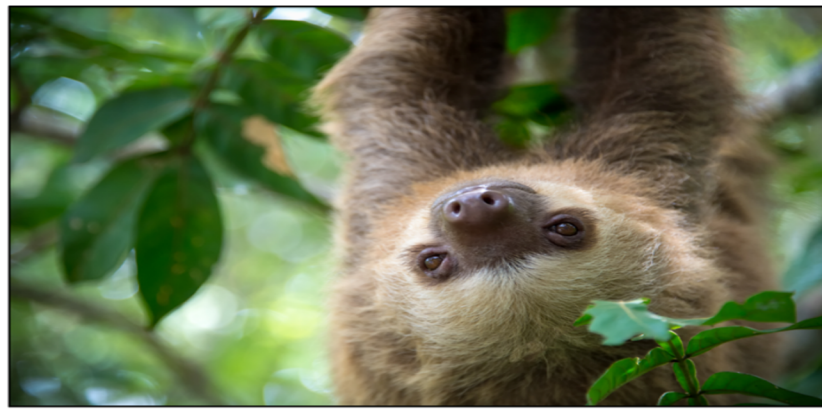
Chipmunks

ANIMALS OF THE RAINFOREST

The rainforests are home to a huge variety of unique species such as sloths, capybaras, jaguars, poison dart frogs, spider monkeys, macaws, and many others. Scientists are still learning about all the plant life there, which offers many benefits to humans. Sadly, the rainforests are disappearing at an alarming rate due to deforestation, or the cutting down of trees. We need to protect these special forests before they disappear.



Jaguar



Sloth



Tree frog