



Year 4 – Autumn Term 2

Title of topic: Amazonia

Topic Focus: Geography of the Amazon Rainforest

This is the knowledge organiser for our topic. It includes all the learning outcomes, key facts and vocabulary. Please share this with your child to help them develop their knowledge and understanding of our topic.

The water cycle:

The rainforest plays a key role in the water cycle:

1. **Evaporation** – the sun heats water and it rises into the air.
2. **Condensation** – water vapour cools to form clouds.
3. **Precipitation** – water falls as **rain** (or snow).
4. **Collection** – rain collects in rivers, lakes, and the ground.

Geography Outcomes:

- Locate the world's countries, using maps to focus on South America and key physical features.
- Understand geographical similarities and differences through study of human and physical geography.
- Describe and understand key aspects of: climate zones, biomes, rivers, and vegetation belts.
- Use fieldwork to observe, measure and record features in the local environment.
- Understand how humans interact with and impact environments.

Key vocabulary:

- **biome** – a large area with its own plants, animals, and climate.
- **tropical** – hot and wet all year.
- **biodiversity** – variety of living things in one place.
- **canopy** – top layer of trees in a rainforest.
- **deforestation** – the cutting down of forests.
- **indigenous** – people who originally lived in a place.
- **sustainable** – using resources in a way that does not damage the Earth.
- **equator** – an imaginary line around the middle of the Earth.
- **evaporation** – the sun heats water and it rises into the air.
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What are the four layers of the rainforest?

Emergent – tallest trees; eagles, monkeys, bats.

Canopy – thick roof of trees; toucans, sloths, frogs.

Understory – dark, still air; snakes, butterflies, jaguars.

Forest Floor – damp, little light; fungi, ants, large mammals

Where is the Amazon and what makes it special?

- The Amazon Rainforest is found in South America, mostly in Brazil, but also in Peru, Colombia, and others.
- It is the largest rainforest biome on Earth and home to over 3 million species.
- The Amazon River runs through it—second longest river in the world.

What makes the Amazon different from other biomes?

- Biomes are large areas with a certain climate and life.
- The Amazon is a tropical rainforest: hot, humid, and wet all year round.
- Other biomes include: deserts (dry), tundras (cold), and grasslands (open and grassy).

What is happening to the Amazon and why is it changing?

- Deforestation is caused by farming (especially cattle), logging, and mining.
- It reduces biodiversity, releases CO₂, and threatens Indigenous communities.

How can we help locally?

- Protect local woodlands and wildlife by not littering and planting trees.
- Use less plastic, turn off lights, and save water at home and school.