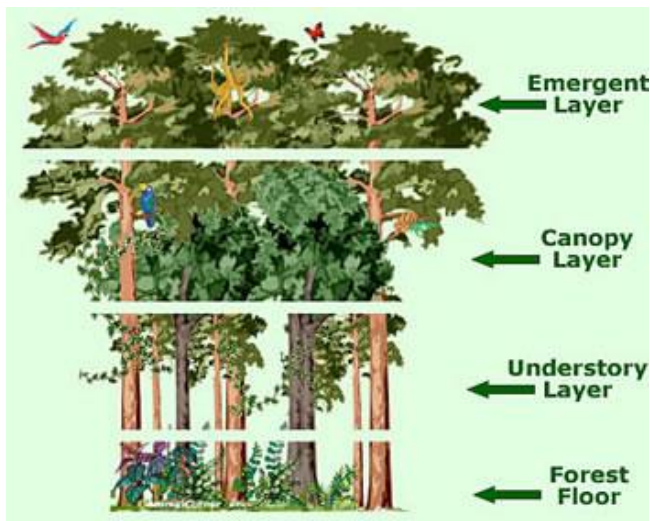


Rainforests Knowledge Organiser – Year 4

Layers of the Rainforest

Emergent Layer	Giant trees that enjoy the most sun but experience strong and cold winds. Macaws, Harpy eagles and Morpho butterflies live here.
Canopy Layer	Dense layer of trees overlapping each other. Home to most of the animals in the rainforest.
Understory Layer	Relatively dark, open area below the canopy. Lizards, jaguars and frogs live here. Toucans, monkeys and sloths live here.
Forest Floor	Mainly consisting of fallen leaves, fruit etc that decomposes as food for trees. Anteaters, anacondas and beetles live here.



Famous Rainforests

The Amazon Rainforest.	Tropical rainforest in South America.
The Congo Rainforest	Tropical rainforest in Africa.
The Valdivian Rainforest	Temperate rainforest in South America.
The Daintree Rainforest	Tropical rainforest in Australia.
The Southeast Asian Rainforest	Tropical rainforest in Asia.

Key features of a rainforest

biome	Biomes are a large naturally occurring community of plants and animals occupying a major habitat. A biome is another name for a distinct ecosystem.
climate	The weather and temperature usually found in an area over a long period of time.
deforestation	The action of clearing a wide area of trees
ecosystems	A community of plants and animals that depend on each other to survive
endangered	A species which is seriously at risk of extinction.
habitat	A natural home or environment of an animal or plant.
indigenous	A living thing that belongs naturally to an area.
interdependent	When two or more people or things rely on each other.
rainforest	A dense forest, normally found in tropical areas with high rainfall. They generate much of the world's oxygen.
Tropics of Cancer and of Capricorn	Imaginary lines north and south of the equator. Most rainforests can be found between these two lines.



Rainforests Key Vocabulary – Year 4

Nouns

biome	Emergent Layer	nutrients
Canopy Layer	endangered	oxygen
climate	Forest Floor	rainforest
common	habitat	species
deforestation	indigenous	Tropics of Cancer and of Capricorn
ecosystems	interdependent	Understory Layer

Verbs

adapt	evaporate	preserve
capture	fall	protect
communicate	hunt	protrude
cover	lies	scavenge
decompose	logging	survive
discover	overcome	threaten

Adjectives

cool	fertile	sweltering
dangerous	impenetrable	temperate
dense	mature	thick
diverse	mountainous	towering
enormous	protected	vast
extensive	rotting	vital

Etymology

ecosystem	This word comes from the Greek 'oikos' meaning 'home' and 'systema' meaning system.
orangutan	First recorded in the 1690s from the Dutch 'orang utan', literally meaning 'man of the woods'. 'orang' = man + 'utan' meaning forest.
lemur	The name is from Latin. In Roman mythology, the plural 'lemures' was used to describe the spirits of the departed. Their name is a reference to their ghost-like face.