

**Prior Learning**

To be able to explain my own views about locations, giving reasons.  
 To locate geographical regions and their identifying human and physical characteristics, including hills, mountains, cities, rivers, key topographical features and land-use patterns, and understand how some of these aspects have changed over time.  
 To describe some of the features of the following areas: the Equator, Northern Hemisphere, Southern Hemisphere, the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn.

**Key Learning in this Unit of Work**

- Tropical rainforests are situated between the tropics of Cancer and Capricorn and located near the Equator.
- There are tropical rainforests in these countries: Venezuela, Mexico, Suriname, Columbia, Brazil, Peru, Bolivia, Congo, Indonesia and Papua New Guinea.
- The weather in the tropics is similar all year; hot and wet!
- A monsoon is the name of the wind blowing from the south-west between May and September in South East Asia.
- The rainforest has four layers: emergent, canopy, understorey & forest floor.
- Comparing the climate and weather in West Kirby to the Amazon Rainforest – West Kirby, Wirral is in Europe. We have a temperate climate with mild summers, cool winters and rainfall spread evenly throughout the year. Rainforests are hot and wet all year round – this creates a humid climate.



**Rainforest Around the World.**

**The Amazon Rainforest**

- The Amazon Rainforest covers 5.5 million square km (previously it covered a much larger area but deforestation has made the rainforest smaller).
- It covers parts of Brazil, Peru, Colombia, Venezuela, Ecuador, Bolivia, Guyana, Suriname and French Guiana.
- It attracts over 2 million tourists per year.
- The Amazon rainforest in South America is the largest rainforest in the world.

**Deforestation** – The action of clearing a wide area of trees.

**Vocabulary Dozen**

<b>Rainforest</b>	A dense forest, normally found in tropical areas with high rainfall. They generate much of the world's oxygen.
<b>Climate</b>	The average weather conditions over a long period of time
<b>Equator</b>	An imaginary circle running round the centre of the earth.
<b>Humid</b>	Feeling very damp due to water vapour in the air.
<b>Weather</b>	The specific condition on a given day.
<b>Monsoon</b>	A seasonal wind which lasts for several months bringing wet summers and dry winters.
<b>Temperate</b>	Mild temperatures and moderate rainfall.
<b>Tropical</b>	Temperatures are warm or hot throughout the year.
<b>Emergent Layer</b>	Giant trees that enjoy the most sun but get subjected to high winds & cold.
<b>Canopy</b>	Dense layer of trees overlapping each other. Home to most animals in rainforests.
<b>Understorey</b>	Relatively dark, open area below the canopy.
<b>Undergrowth</b>	Also known as the forest floor, mainly consisting of fallen leaves, fruit etc. that decomposes as food for trees.

**Did you know...**

...rainforests cover approximately 6% of the Earth's surface but contain more than 1/2 of the world's plants? About 90% of organisms are found in the canopy.

...that there are two types of rainforests – Tropical and Temperate? Tropical rainforests are generally warmer than temperate ones.

...many things we have in our homes come from rainforests including: chocolate, sugar, rubber, bamboo and many medicines?