

Rainforests cover 6% of the world's surface but contain more than half of the world's plants.

Rainforests

What is a rainforest?

Rainforests are a kind of forest habitat. They are found in warm places, and are full of many tall trees and leafy plants. It's called 'rainforest' because it also gets a lot of rain every year, helping all the plants grow.

Because rainforests are warm, wet and dense, they are full of life - millions of different kinds of plants and animals live there, and some haven't even been discovered yet! It's important to protect rainforest habitats for all the creatures who live there, and for humans too; rainforests produce 20% of the oxygen that all of us in the world need to breathe.



The Amazon Rainforest

The Amazon is the world's largest tropical rainforest. Covering over 5.5 million square kilometres, it's so big that the UK and Ireland would fit into it 17 times!

It located in South America, mainly in Brazil.

One in ten known species in the world lives in the Amazon rainforest.

The region is home to about 2.5 million insect species tens of thousands of plants, and some 2,000 birds and mammals.

Running through the north of the rainforest is the Amazon River - most scientists agree that the Amazon is the world's second longest river after the River Nile.

Key Vocabulary

Rainforest	A dense forest, usually found in tropical areas with high rainfall.
Continent	The world's main continuous pieces of land - Asia, Africa, North America, South America, Antarctica, Europe, Australia.
Habitat	The natural home of a plant, animal or microorganism.
River	A large natural stream of water.

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

One fascinating fish found in the Amazon is the **Pirarucu** (also known as the **arapaima** or **paiche**). A menacing meat-eater, the pirarucu guzzles up other fish and can grow to nearly **3m long**! And what makes it super deadly? It has teeth on the roof of its mouth *and* on its tongue!

