

Year/s: 3/4

Block: 2

## KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER - ROARING RAINFORESTS

**Curriculum Drivers:** Discovery, Awesome Memories, Success

**GARP/GASP:** There are lots of groups and organisations trying to save the Amazon Rainforest including a group of women called The Yuturi Warmi.

**Subject:** Geography

**Cross-curricular links:** English Writing, Art, DT, Science

### Learning Journey

- To locate the countries and major cities in North and South America
- To understand biomes and environmental regions
- To understand and identify the different layers of a rainforest and their unique characteristics
- To explore the Amazon Rainforest
- To understand different types of land use in the Amazon Rainforest and their impact on the environment and local communities
- To understand the impact of the deforestation in the Amazon Rainforest
- To explore and understand ways to protect and save the Amazon Rainforest
- To compare the Amazon Rainforest to Sherwood Forest

### Core Knowledge and Key Visuals

A biome is a large area with special weather, plants, and animals. In the Americas, there are rainforests (hot, wet, and full of trees), deserts (hot, dry, with few plants), and grasslands (wide open spaces with grass). These biomes have unique plants and animals.

Rainforests, like the Amazon, have four layers. The emergent layer has the tallest trees and lots of sunlight, with animals like eagles. The canopy is a thick roof of trees where toucans and sloths live. The understory is dark and humid, home to smaller plants and animals like jaguars. The forest floor is very dark, with insects and decomposing plants.

The Amazon Rainforest, mostly in Brazil, is the world's largest rainforest. It is called the "lungs of the Earth" because it produces lots of oxygen. It has millions of plants, animals, and indigenous tribes who depend on the forest to live.

People use the Amazon for farming, logging, and mining, but this harms the forest. Farming often means cutting down trees to grow crops or raise cattle, destroying habitats. Logging for wood and mining for resources damage the soil, water, and forest, hurting animals, plants, and local communities.

Deforestation, or cutting down too many trees, is a serious problem. It destroys habitats, adds more carbon dioxide to the air (causing climate change), and dries up rivers. It harms animals, plants, and people who rely on the forest.

We can protect the Amazon by planting trees, following laws to stop illegal logging and mining, and choosing products that don't hurt the rainforest. Indigenous tribes play an important role in protecting the forest, and we should support them too.

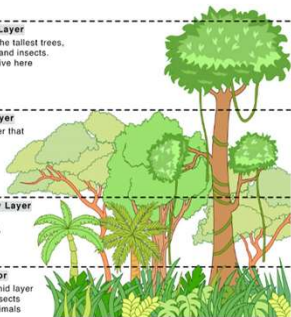
#### Layers of the Rainforest

**Emergent Layer**  
Consists of the tallest trees, some birds, and insects. No animals live here.

**Canopy Layer**  
Thickest layer that hosts most flora and fauna.

**Understory Layer**  
Consists of young herbs, shrubs, and bushes.

**Forest Floor**  
Darkest, humid layer that hosts insects and giant animals.



### Disciplinary Concepts

- Interpretation of Geographical Information
- Similarity and Difference

### Substantive Concepts

- Physical & Human Processes & Features
- Landscapes, Environments & Environmental Impact
- Locational Knowledge
- Place Knowledge
- Cause, Consequence & Change Over Time
- Cultural Diversity

### Vocabulary

**Cities:** a place where many people live closely together. They have areas for business, entertainment and a public transportation system.

**South America:** a continent in the Western and Southern Hemisphere. It is the fourth largest continent in the world and contains 12 countries.

**North America:** a continent in the Northern Hemisphere. It is the third largest of the world's continents and contains 23 countries.

**Climate Change:** refers to long-term shifts in temperatures and weather patterns.

**Countries:** a large area of land where people live under the same government or have the same culture.

**Environmental Regions/Climate Zones:** areas of the world where there are similar weather patterns.

**Deforestation:** the actions of clearing a wide area of trees.

**Rainforest:** an area of tall trees that receives a high amount of rainfall.

**Land Use:** a term used to describe the human use of land.

**Biomes:** an area classified according to the weather, plants that grow there and the species that can be found in that location.

**Communities:** a group of people living in the same place or having a characteristic in common.

**Species:** a group of similar organisms that are able to reproduce.