

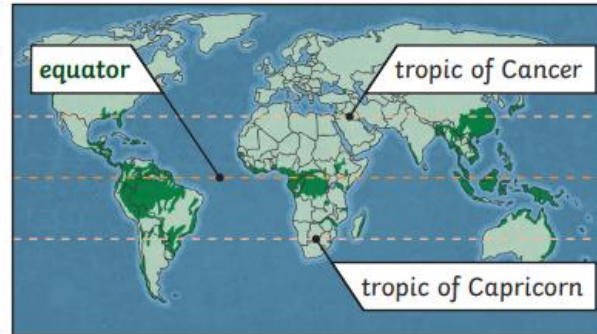
## Beneath the Canopy – Year 2 – Spring 2

### Where in the World?

Rainforests are found near the **equator** between the tropic of Cancer and the tropic of Capricorn.

They can be found in every continent except Antarctica.

They are located in countries such as Brazil, India, Peru, Mexico, Australia and Malaysia.



### Climate

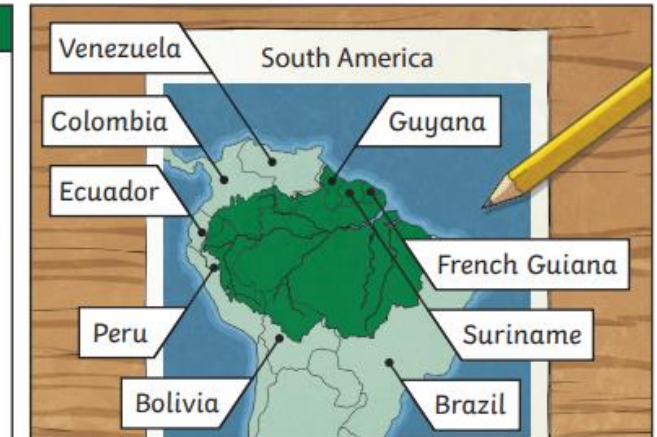
The **climate** in the rainforest is the same all year round.

- Average rainfall of 6cm each month
- Usually rains every day
- Hot and **humid**

Emergent Layer	Canopy Layer	Understorey Layer	Forest Floor
Trees can be up to 60m tall	Trees form a roof over the plants below	Trees grow to less than 4m tall	Very few plants
Lots of sunlight	Lots of sunlight but also plenty of rain	Very little sunlight	Almost no sunlight
Cold and windy	Lots of food for animals	Warm and <b>humid</b>	Leaves and debris decompose quickly
Birds, bats, monkeys and butterflies	Snakes, toucans and tree frogs	Lots of insects	Gorillas, anteaters, leopards and tigers

### The Amazon Rainforest

- 5.5 million square km (previously covered a much larger area)
- Parts in Brazil, Peru, Colombia, Venezuela, Ecuador, Bolivia, Guyana, Suriname and French Guiana
- 2.5 million insect **species**
- 40 000+ plant **species**
- 3 000 edible fruits
- 2 000+ **species** of birds and mammals



- 2 million tourists per year
- 170 different languages spoken
- 250 000 **native tribes** currently live there



## Beneath the Canopy – Year 2 – Spring 2

### What you should already know...



- Plants are a large group of living things that use sunlight to make their own food.
- There are many, many different kinds of plants, including trees, vines and grasses.
- Plants have lots of different parts, for example stems, leaves and roots.
- Some trees lose their leaves in the winter (deciduous). Some keep their leaves through the year (evergreen).

### Growth from Seeds/Bulbs into Mature Plants

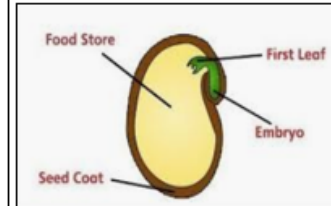


-Germination is the name for when a plant starts to grow. A plant is germinating when its seed begins to sprout.

-Inside a seed/bulb is the baby plant (an embryo). Seeds have a tough layer on the outside to protect the plant (the seed coat).

-Seeds and bulbs do not need sunlight in order to grow. They already have their own food store inside them!

-However, they do need the right conditions to grow. Normally, they need water, air and the right temperature. This can often be found in well-watered soil!



# PLANTS

### What Plants Need to Grow

Water and Nutrients	Light
<p>Like animals and humans, plants need water and nutrients to survive.</p> <p>-Plants are able to get water from the soil through their roots.</p> <p>-They can also catch water on their leaves.</p>	<p>Plants need lots of sunlight to help them grow.</p> <p>-Plants do not eat food. They instead use sunlight to make their own food.</p> <p>-Too little light will leave plants weak.</p>
<p>Plants need the temperature to be just right for them to grow properly.</p> <p>-If it is too hot, they may burn and wilt. If it is too cold, they may freeze and die. This is why there are less plants at the poles and the deserts.</p>	<p>Plants need room for their roots and stems to be able to grow. Without enough room, they may not grow large enough.</p> <p>-Plants also need time – it can take days, months or even years for them to grow.</p>

### Plant Life Cycle

Plants have a clear life cycle that helps them to keep reproducing:

Seeds/bulbs – Plants begin life as seeds or bulbs. They need soil, air and water to grow.

Seedling – Plants grow into young plants. They now need light, temperature, water, space and time to keep growing.

Flowering/Fruit – Plants grow flowers and fruits. These produce seeds. When the plant dies or is pollinated.

#### Smaller Plants

Dandelion – about 25 centimetres

Dwarf Evergreen Shrub – about 1 metre

Sunflower – 1-3 metres

Titan Arum Flower – up to 3.5 metres

Spruce (Christmas Tree) – up to 30 metres

#### Taller Plants

Giant Redwood Tree – 100 metres +