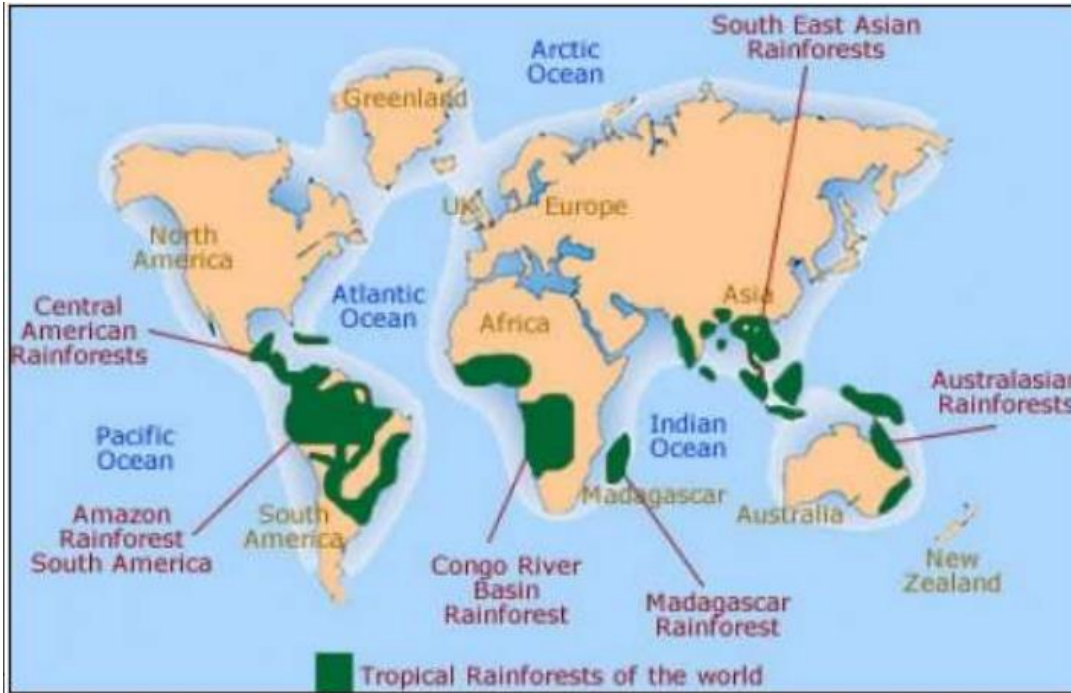


# Rainforests

Year 3 Knowledge Organiser - Term 5



Key vocabulary	
Rainforest	A forest found in a tropical area with consistent heavy rainfall.
Amazon Rainforest	The largest tropical rainforest in the world found in South America.
Ecosystem	A community of plants and animals that rely on each other to survive.
Endangered	A species that is very likely to become <i>extinct</i> .
Extinct(ion)	When all the remaining members of a species die out.
Habitat	The natural home of a plant or animal.
Deforestation	Cutting, clearing and removing large areas of trees.

## Deforestation

### Causes of Deforestation

- To clear space for farming
- Chopping down trees for wood
- To build roads to mine for metals, gold and diamonds
- To dig for oil
- To flood areas to make dams and generate electricity

### Impact of Deforestation

- Half of the tropical rainforests we had have now gone
- 28,000 species of animal are expected to become extinct the next 25 years
- Local people are forced to move home
- Levels of oxygen in the air are decreasing whilst carbon dioxide are increasing

**Emergent layer** -- the tops of trees that poke up above the rainforest canopy. It is very sunny here and is home to birds, butterflies and bats.

**Canopy layer** – a dense layer of trees overlapping each other. Home to most animals in rainforests.

**Understorey layer** -- a tangle of shrubs, young trees and vines. It is hot and damp here and the air is very still.

**Rainforest Floor** – mainly consisting of fallen leaves, fruit etc. that decomposes as food for trees.

