

## Key Vocabulary and Definitions

**Amazon Rainforest**- the largest tropical rainforest in the world, located in the continent South America.

**Biome**- a large naturally occurring community of plants and animals occupying a major habitat.

**Deforestation**- the action of clearing a wide area of trees.

**Ecosystem**- a community of plants and animals which depend on each other to survive.

**Endangered**- a species which is seriously at risk of extinction.

**Equator**- an imaginary line dividing the Earth into northern and southern hemispheres and where the sun directly hits the Earth.

**Indigenous**-having always lived in the place.

**South America**- it is the 4<sup>th</sup> largest continent in the world. It is entirely in the western hemisphere.

**Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn**- most northernly and southernly circle of latitude on Earth where the sun can be directly over-head.

## Deforestation

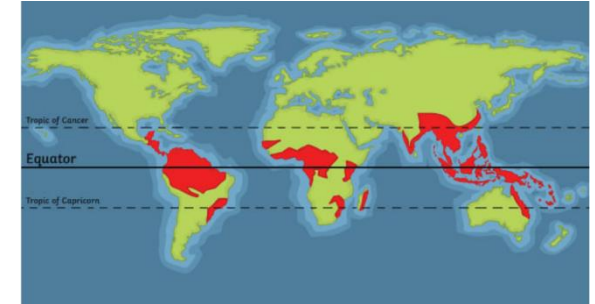
### **How has deforestation affected animal and human habitats and how they live?**

#### **Amazon Rainforest**

Located in South America, it is mostly contained in Brazil, Peru, Ecuador and Colombia. It is the largest rainforest in the world.



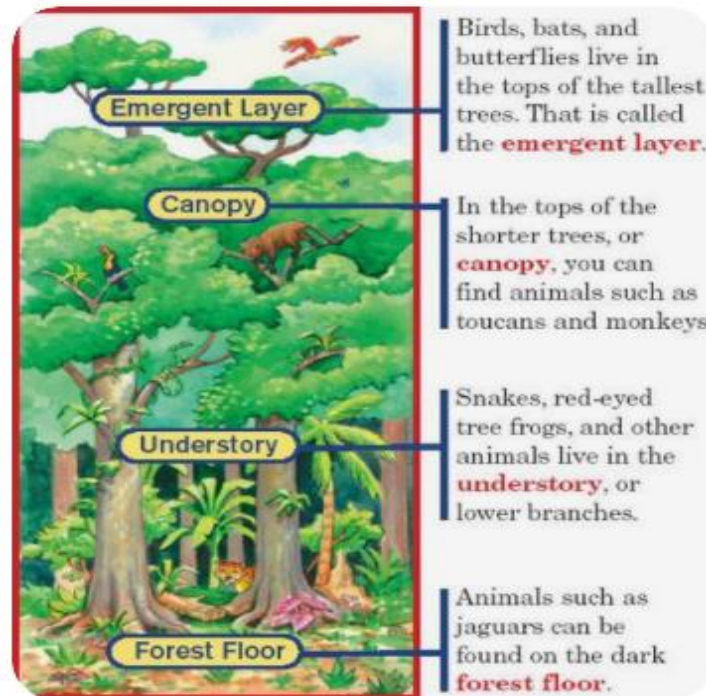
**Rainforest Locations**- rainforests are forests that receive a lot of rain. Tropical rainforests are located in the tropics near the equator. The climate within a rainforest is very humid and warm.



#### **Rainforest Facts**

- Around 80% of the food we eat originally came from the rainforest e.g. coffee, chocolate, rice and bananas.
- 6% of the Earth's surface is covered with tropical rainforests and they are home to more than half the world's total animal and plant species.
- Over ¼ of the medicines we use today had their origins in the rainforests.
- A number of tribes in areas such as central Africa and Brazil still live in rainforests, having no contact with the outside world.

#### **The Layers of the Rainforest**



**Deforestation- Causes**1) clearing space for farming 2) chopping down trees for wood 3) building roads 4) drilling for oil 5) flooding areas to generate electricity  
**Impact-** 1) an area the size of 20 football pitches is being destroyed every 60 seconds 2) ½ of the tropical rainforests we had have now gone 3) animal and plant species are becoming extinct 4) homes are being destroyed 5) levels of carbon dioxide are increasing and oxygen decreasing.