

## ENQUIRY QUESTION

How does life in temperate Lewis compare with the tropical rainforest?

### What are rainforests?

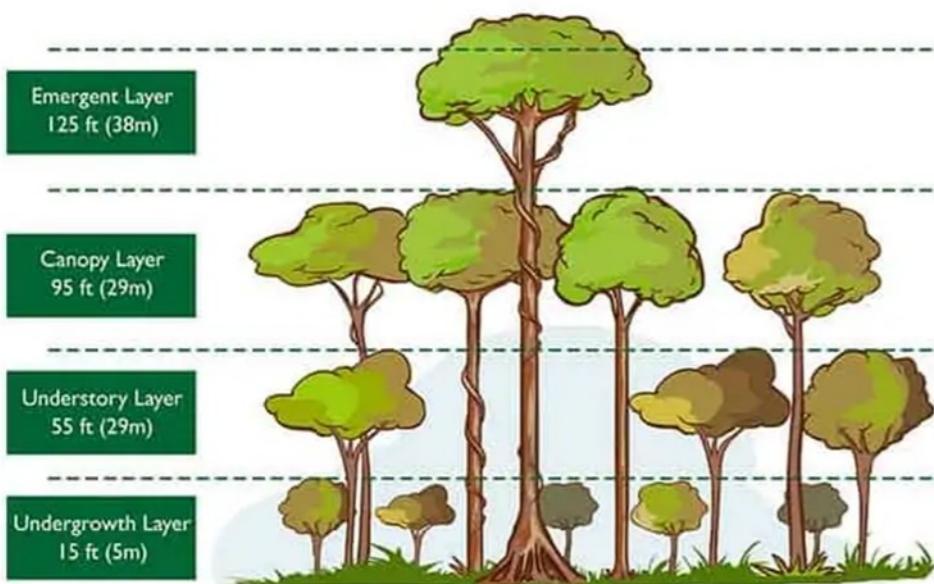
Rainforests are dense, warm forests with lots of rainfall throughout the year.

They are home to more than half of all the plants and animals on Earth.

### What are the layers of the rainforest?

Rainforests have four main layers:

- Emergent Layer - tallest trees reaching the sunlight.
- Canopy - dense layer of trees that forms a roof over the forest.
- Understory - shaded area beneath the canopy with shrubs and small plants.
- Forest Floor - dark, humid ground where large animals and decomposers live.



### What products come from the rainforest?

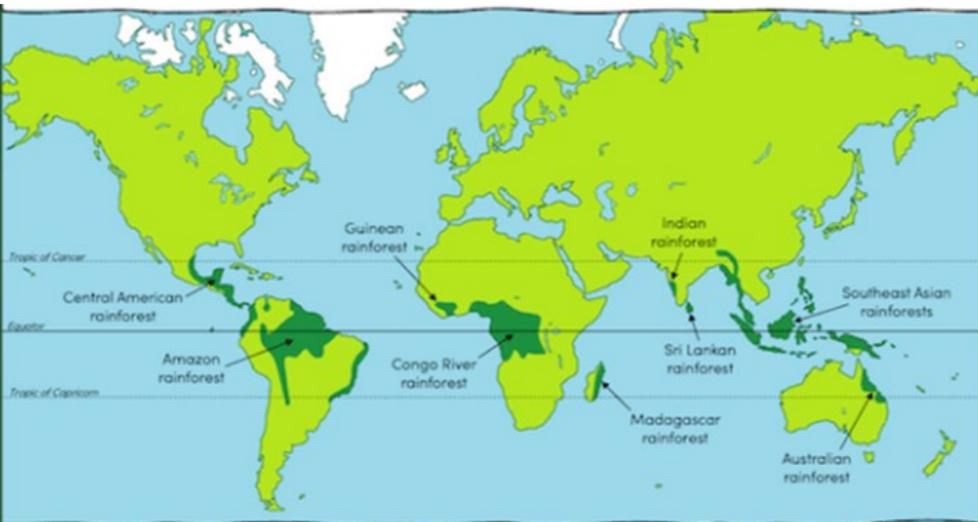
Many items that we use every day have actually originated from the rainforest! The world's most popular fruit, the banana, comes from the rainforest! Other rainforest foods include avocado, vanilla and sugar. Tropical forest oils are used in products such as fuel, paint, soaps and shampoos.

# Rainforests

### Where in the world?

Rainforests are found near to 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.



### Importance to the Planet

Rainforests help regulate the climate by absorbing carbon dioxide and producing oxygen.

They also prevent soil erosion and maintain the water cycle.



## Amazing Biodiversity

Rainforests are full of life! They have thousands of species of plants, insects, birds, mammals, and reptiles. Many of these species are found nowhere else on Earth.



### Threats to the Rainforest

Deforestation, illegal logging, mining, and farming are destroying rainforests. This leads to habitat loss, climate change, and endangers many species.

### How We Can Help

- Support sustainable products (like certified wood or paper).
- Reduce waste and recycle.
- Educate others about rainforest conservation.
- Support organisations that protect rainforests.

### Language of a Geographer

climate	the average weather conditions over a long period of time
deforestation	the cutting down and clearing of forests.
equator	an imaginary circle running round the centre of the earth.
humid	the amount of water vapour in the air
native tribes	the original settlers of an area.
species	a group of similar animals or plants
weather	the specific condition on a given day