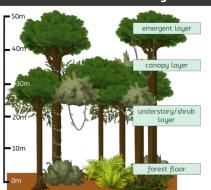
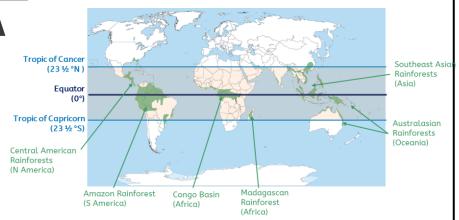
Tropical rainforests

The structure of the tropical rainforest



- •Emergent layer A layer of tall trees that stick out the top of the tropical rainforest.
- •Canopy layer This is like an umbrella that shades the layers below. It is made up of tall, straight trees.
- •Understorey layer A layer of flowers, plants, bushes and small trees.
- •Forest floor This is at the ground level. Not much light reaches this layer, so it is very dark.

Location of tropical rainforests



Tropical rainforests

- •Rainforests are found in areas with a climate that has high precipitation. Tropical rainforests have a wet and hot climate due to global atmospheric circulation.
- Tropical rainforests are home to more than half the world's total plant and animal species.
- •Tropical rainforests provide a habitat for many species. At a global level, they absorb carbon dioxide and release oxygen, which helps keep the planet healthy. Plus, many medicines we use today had their origins in the rainforests. At a local level, indigenous tribes like the Kayapo people rely on the rainforests for food and medicines.
- •Deforestation of the tropical rainforests is making way for agriculture, logging and mining.
- The United Nations COP26 introduced changes at a global scale that are aimed at protecting rainforests around the world.

Vocabulary

- biodiversity (noun): The variety of living things in a given place.
- biome (noun): Ecosystems on a global scale.
- COP26 (Noun): A meeting between 200 countries, held in November 2021, to discuss how to improve the Earth's environment.
- **deforestation** (noun): The action of chopping down trees to clear a wide area.
- habitat (noun): A place where an organism lives.
- **logging** (noun): The business of cutting down trees for wood.
- tropics (noun): The area between the the tropic of Cancer and the tropic of Capricorn.

