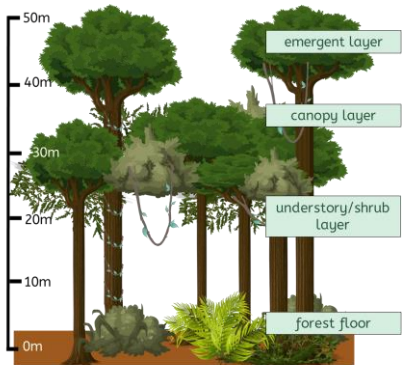


# Tropical Rainforests

## The structure of the tropical rainforest

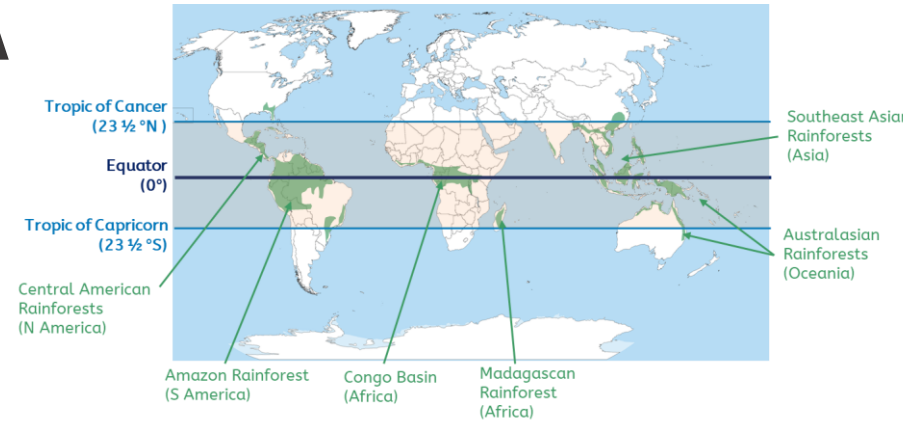


- **Emergent layer** - A layer of tall trees that stick out the top of the tropical rainforest.
- **Canopy layer** - This is like an umbrella that shades the layers below. It is made up of tall, straight trees.
- **Understory layer** - A layer of flowers, plants, bushes and small trees.
- **Forest floor**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

## 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 and they 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. Many medicines we use today had their origins in the rainforests. At a local level, indigenous tribes like the Kayapo people rely on the rainforest 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 to protect rainforests around the world.

## Location of tropical rainforests



## 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 tropic of Cancer and tropic of Capricorn.

