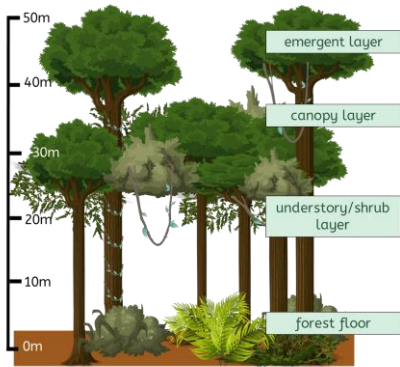


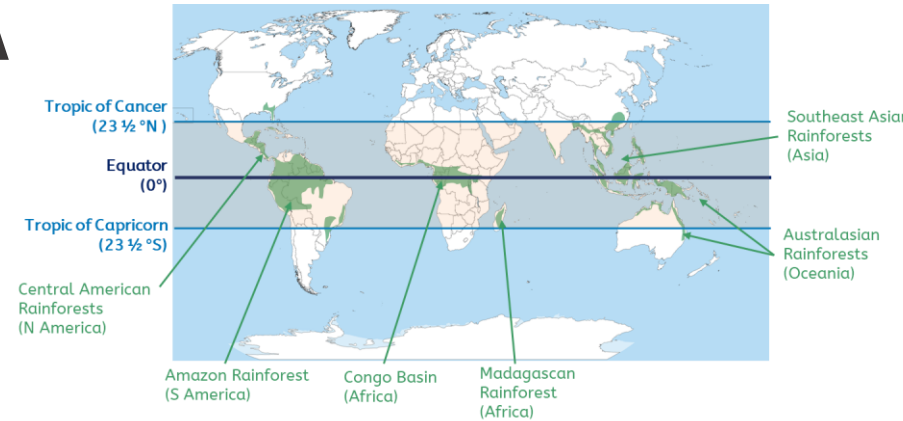
# Tropical rainforests

## 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.

