

# Cantrell Primary School Geography Curriculum

## Year 5: Rainforests

*Why are Rainforests referred to as 'the lungs of the planet' and how are they under threat?*

### Objectives:

- Know what is meant by biomes and name at least five types of biome (tropical forest, deciduous forest, tundra, taiga, desert)
- Locate tropical, temperate and polar climate zones on a globe or map and describe the characteristics of these zones
- Understand how climate and vegetation are connected in biomes, e.g. the tropical rainforest and the desert
- Label layers of a rainforest
- Know what deforestation is, why it occurs and what some of the main effects on the planet are
- Understand where our energy and natural resources come from

### Key Factual Learning:

- ✓ The world is made up of biomes which are large areas characterised by their **vegetation, soil, climate** and **wildlife**.
- ✓ The British Isles are located within a **temperate deciduous forest** biome which is characterised as a **biome** that has many **deciduous trees** which drop their leaves in autumn.
- ✓ These temperate deciduous **biomes** are exposed to warm and cold air masses, causing them to have four **seasons**: winter, spring, summer and fall.
- ✓ The tropical rainforest biome has four main characteristics: very high annual **rainfall**, high average **temperatures**, **nutrient-poor soil**, and high levels of **biodiversity (species richness)**.
- ✓ The rainforest can be split into sections which are characterised by the living things that you find there and the conditions. These include the **forest floor, understory, canopy** and **emergent layers**.
- ✓ The **Amazon Rainforest** grows around the **Amazon River** – the world's largest river and system of **tributaries**.
- ✓ The Amazon represents more than half of the Earth's remaining rainforest.
- ✓ 60% of the Amazon is found within **Brazil** with other parts owned by **Peru, Columbia, Bolivia, French Guiana, Guyana, Suriname**, and **Venezuela**
- ✓ There are still **tribal communities** and even uncontacted **tribes** living in the rainforests of South America.
- ✓ **Deforestation** is a word to describe the process of removing naturally occurring forests and woodlands from the surface of the Earth. **Britain** was largely deforested during **prehistoric** times but would have originally been covered by thick deciduous forest.
- ✓ Forests produce a huge amount of **oxygen** for the Earth's animal population to breathe in.
- ✓ Over 3 million species of plant and animal live in the Amazon.
- ✓ A huge amount of deforestation occurs each year in the Amazon and this is negatively affecting the world's climate and contributing to global warming.
- ✓ There are many reasons for this deforestation but conservation groups and many scientists are concerned that the Amazon is being exploited and that western consumption of consumer goods drives this exploitation.

### Practical Tasks:

- ✓ Identify locations of the world's biomes on a physical map
- ✓ Identify and describe the features of a tropical rainforest including the layers
- ✓ Write a Minecraft style report about tropical rainforest biome using technical language
- ✓ Draw and label a coloured diagram of the layers of the rainforest – possibly use paints to enhance this activity – use Lynne Cherry's The Great Kapok Tree as a stimulus
- ✓ Compare and contrast the Amazon and Sherwood Forest
- ✓ Learn about how and why deforestation takes place
- ✓ Write a discussion text using arguments for and against deforestation considering the wide range of issues surrounding deforestation.

### Key Vocabulary:

vegetation, soil, climate, wildlife, temperate deciduous forest, biome, deciduous trees, biomes, seasons, rainfall, temperatures, nutrient-poor soil, biodiversity, species, forest floor, understory, canopy, emergent layers, South America, continents, North America, Atlantic, Europe, Antarctic tundra, Amazon Rainforest, Amazon River, tributaries, Brazil, Peru, Columbia, Bolivia, French Guiana, Guyana, Suriname, Venezuela, Argentina, developing nations, economy, tribal communities, tribes, Deforestation, Britain, prehistoric, oxygen, developing nations, economy

### Cross-Curricular Links:

Art – painting the layers of the rainforest diagram,  
English – persuasive writing, non-chronological reports

# Cantrell Primary School Geography Curriculum

## Year 5: How does South America compare to the UK?

### Objectives:

- Identify and locate countries in South America
- Identify human and physical characteristics of South America
- To find out about the human geography of South America
- To find out about trade and industry in South America
- To be able to carry out an in-depth study of a South American country and compare to the UK (Brazil)
- To be able to compare the Andes mountain range to a mountain range in the UK

### Key Factual Learning:

- ✓ South America is a continent. It is located in the southern hemisphere.
- ✓ A continent that is home to nearly 400 million people
- ✓ South America consists of 12 countries—Chile, Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay, Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador, Brazil, Colombia, Venezuela, Guyana, and Suriname—plus an overseas department of France called French Guiana.
- ✓ Human geography relates to human activity on the earth – examples such as population, energy, land use, settlements etc
- ✓ Physical geography is the study of the processes that shape the Earth's surface.
- ✓ Population is the number of all the inhabitants of a given country or area considered together.
- ✓ 422.5 million people live in South America.
- ✓ We can study a country according to its human geography (population, life expectancy, official language, currency, religion)
- ✓ Trade is the action of buying and selling goods and services.
- ✓ South America trades many of its products such as wood, salmon, metals, materials etc.
- ✓ Export means to send (goods or services) to another country for sale.
- ✓ Import is to bring (goods or services) into a country from abroad for sale.
- ✓ Brazil is a country in South America.
- ✓ Brazil is the largest country in South America. Brazil has 4 time zones. The Capital City is Brasilia. Around 60% of the Amazon Rainforest is in Brazil.
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### Practical Tasks:

- Locate south America on a world map (atlas)  
Using DigiMaps resource, locate the countries of South America using tracing paper.
- Discuss the differences between human and physical geography giving examples of each.
- Estimate the population of various countries of South America, finding out the actual answers.
- Research the populations, life expectancy, official languages, main religions, capital cities and currency.
- Label a South American map of the various exports from different countries.
- Complete an in-depth research project on a country in South America (Brazil) – presenting information in an engaging way.
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**Key Vocabulary:** southern hemisphere, trade, continent, climate, population, life expectancy, languages spoken, religions, capital cities, lands scape, similarities, differences, import, export, buying, selling

### Cross-Curricular Links:

D&T: Design and make a bag which a refugee child could use  
English: *The Boy at the Back of the Class* by Onjali Q Rauf