

# The Annunciation Catholic Junior School - The Amazon Rainforest Knowledge Organiser - Summer Term 2023

## Subject Specific Vocabulary

Word	Definition
Biodiversity -	The wide variety of living things on Earth.
Climate -	The weather and temperature usually found in an area over a long period of time.
Colony -	A group of the same kind of animal that live and work closely together.
Equatorial -	Grows near the equator (the area around the middle of the earth). It is very warm (in the Tropics).
Humid -	Having a high level of moisture in the air.
Indigenous -	A living things that belongs naturally to an area.
Carbon Dioxide (CO <sub>2</sub> ) -	A gas that is released when fuel burns and animals breathe. Plants absorb it.
Deforestation -	Destruction of trees over large areas,
Liana -.	Rope-like plants that grow up trees

## Previous Knowledge

- \*The Amazon Rainforest in South America is the largest rainforest habitat in the world. It is a unique place which is very dense, full of tall trees and leafy plants.
- \*It reaches over many countries: Peru, Equador, Venezuela, Colombia, but mostly in Brazil.
- \*Due to its location, in South America near the equator, the Amazon Rainforest is very warm (average temperatures always being above 18°C) but also very humid.
- \*It is so wet there because of all the heavy rain that falls (mostly between Nov and Apr) which can range from 2 - 10 metres each year!
- \*Being so packed with millions of different species living in the same area, it can be a harsh environment for plants and animals. As they cannot afford to be attacked or eaten, they have adapted and evolved to living in different levels of the forest and have ways (such as poisonous venom or toxins) to protect themselves from dangerous predators.
- \*From the Amazon, we get: bananas, coffee, choc, nuts, coconut, cinnamon and rubber.



## Key Facts

- ❖ Where the world's rainforests are located, in the tropical regions (along the equator) the temperature NEVER gets freezing.
- ❖ The Amazon never has a dry season as rainforests can also produce their own rain.
- ❖ A lot of species in the Amazon Rainforest (and others) have not yet even been discovered and therefore need protecting.
- ❖ Known as the 'Lungs of the Earth', the Amazon Rainforest produces 20% or one fifth of the world's oxygen needed for humans to breathe.
- ❖ The rainforest plays an important role in limiting climate change converting CO<sub>2</sub> into O<sub>2</sub>.
- ❖ The Amazon covers 5.5 million square km the UK and Ireland would fit into it 17 times.
- ❖ 25% of medicines that we use today come from the rainforest and less than only 5% of plants have been studied by medical scientists so far.
- ❖ There are 400-500 different groups of native Amerindian tribes living in the Amazon, 50 groups of them have never seen or met people outside of their tribe (very cut off).
- ❖ Rainforests can produce their own rain. Plants transpire during photosynthesis. They release water vapour from pores on the undersides of their leaves. Due to the large concentration of plants, the huge amount of moisture builds into clouds, and causes rain to fall within the rainforest.
- ❖ There are four main layers in the rainforest - forest floor, understory, canopy and emergent layer