


South America & Rainforests | Class 4 | Spring 2022

Vocabulary		Rainforest Animals		Map of South America
equator	An imaginary line around the middle of the Earth.	macaw (bird)	Long tailed, colourful type of parrot.	
deforestation	The destruction of trees in a large area.	tapir (herbivorous mammal)	Similar in shape to a pig. Tapirs live in South America near water and have long snouts.	
forest floor	The ground beneath the trees of a forest consisting of roots and soil.	poison dart frog (amphibian)	Colourful frog with toxins in their skin. The skin is brightly coloured to keep predators away.	
understory	The layer of the rainforest underneath the canopy. It is hot and damp. Bushes and young trees grow here.	jaguar (carnivorous mammal)	The biggest predator in the Amazon Rainforest. Usually a lone, nocturnal hunter which leaps on its prey from above.	
canopy	A layer of overlapping trees and plants above the ground.	piranha (fish)	These sharp-toothed meat-eating fish can devour cattle and even humans. Attacks are rare.	
emergent	The top layer of the rainforest. There is a lot of sunlight and the tallest trees grow to this level.	caiman (reptile)	Type of alligator. Lie in shallow water and feed on land animals that come close to the water edge.	
habitat	The natural environment where an animal or plant normally lives	sloth (mammal)	Moves very slowly through the trees, so not to attract attention. Very endangered.	
biome	A large area inhabited by plants and animals that live together e.g. rainforest, desert.	Reasons for Deforestation <i>Palm oil</i> - produced in trees in the Amazon and used in salad dressings, washing powder and fuels. <i>Cattle ranches</i> - around 10 million cattle in the Amazon region. Raised for consumption by humans. <i>Medicinal plants</i> - curare is produced in the Amazon (used by surgeons)		
indigenous	Belonging to the country in which they are found, rather than being brought there from another country.			
predator	An animal that hunts, kills, and eats other animals			
tribe	A group of people who live together, sharing the same language, culture, and history.			South America is the world's fourth largest continent and is divided politically into 12 independent countries — Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil (largest), Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname (smallest), Uruguay and Venezuela.
agriculture	The science of farming and the methods that are used to raise and look after crops and animals.			This continent stretches from just above the <i>equator</i> down towards the <i>Antarctic</i> and it is connected to North America by land.
				Species of plants in the rainforest Rubber tree, orchid, cacao, giant water lilies, banana tree.