








# South America & Rainforests | Class 4

## Vocabulary

<b>equator</b>		An imaginary line around the middle of the Earth.
<b>deforestation</b>		The destruction of trees in a large area.
<b>forest floor</b>		The ground beneath the trees of a forest consisting of roots and soil.
<b>understory</b>		The layer of the rainforest underneath the canopy. It is hot and damp. Bushes and young trees grow here.
<b>canopy</b>		A layer of overlapping trees and plants above the ground.
<b>emergent</b>		The top layer of the rainforest. There is a lot of sunlight and the tallest trees grow to this level.
<b>habitat</b>		The natural environment where an animal or plant normally lives
<b>biome</b>		A large area inhabited by plants and animals that live together e.g. rainforest, desert.
<b>indigenous</b>		Belonging to the country in which they are found, rather than being brought there from another country.
<b>predator</b>		An animal that hunts, kills, and eats other animals
<b>tribe</b>		A group of people who live together, sharing the same language, culture, and history.
<b>agriculture</b>		The science of farming and the methods that are used to raise and look after crops and animals.

## Rainforest Animals

<b>macaw</b> (bird)		Long tailed, colourful type of parrot.
<b>tapir</b> (herbivorous mammal)		Similar in shape to a pig. Tapirs live in South America near water and have long snouts.
<b>poison dart frog</b> (amphibian)		Colourful frog with toxins in their skin. The skin is brightly coloured to keep predators away.
<b>jaguar</b> (carnivorous mammal)		The biggest predator in the Amazon Rainforest. Usually a lone, nocturnal hunter which leaps on its prey from above.
<b>piranha</b> (fish)		These sharp-toothed meat-eating fish can devour cattle and even humans. Attacks are rare.
<b>caiman</b> (reptile)		Type of alligator. Lie in shallow water and feed on land animals that come close to the water edge.
<b>sloth</b> (mammal)		Moves very slowly through the trees, so not to attract attention. Very endangered.

### Reasons for Deforestation

**Palm oil** - produced in trees in the Amazon and used in salad dressings, washing powder and fuels.

**Cattle ranches**- around 10 million cattle in the Amazon region. Raised for consumption by humans.

**Medicinal plants**- curare is produced in the Amazon (used by surgeons)

## Map of South America



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.

This continent stretches from just above the **equator** down towards the **Antarctic** and it is **connected** to North America by land.

### Species of plants in the rainforest

Rubber tree, orchid, cacao, giant water lilies, banana tree.