

Rainforest Animals

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

Enquiry questions

How many hectares of the Amazon rainforest are cleared every year?

Which rainforest animals are under threat?

Causes of Deforestation

- 1 To clear space for farming: growing crops (e.g. soya beans & palm oil) and space cattle to generate cheap beef.
- 2 Chopping down trees for wood.
- 3 To build roads to mine for metals, gold & diamonds.
- 4 To dig for oil.
- 5



flood areas to make dams & generate electricity.

Impact of Deforestation

- 1 An area the size of 20 football pitches is destroyed every 60 seconds.
- 2 Half of the tropical rainforests we had are gone.
- 3 28,000 species of animals are expected to become extinct in the next 25 years.
- 4 Local people's homes are destroyed.

Vocabulary Dozen

Rainforest	A dense forest, normally found in tropical areas with high rainfall. They generate much of the world's oxygen.
Ecosystem	A community of plants and animals that depend on each other to survive.
Deforestation	The action of clearing a wide area of trees.
Habitat	The natural home or environment of an animal, plant or organism.
Interdependent	When two or more people or things rely on each other.
Camouflage	Blending in to hide in the natural environment.
Mimicry	Copying the look, sound or behaviour of something
Flora & Fauna	Flora = plants; Fauna = animals
Emergent Layer	Giant trees that enjoy the most sun but get subjected to high winds & cold.
Canopy	Dense layer of trees overlapping each other. Home to most animals in rainforests.
Understory	Relatively dark, open area below the canopy.
Undergrowth	Also known as the forest floor, mainly consisting of fallen leaves, fruit etc. that decomposes as food for trees.

Did you know...

...rainforests cover approximately 6% of the Earth's surface but contain more than ½ of the world's plants? About 90% of organisms are found in the canopy.

...about 30 million species of plants and animals live in tropical rainforests?

...that there are two types of rainforests – Tropical and Temperate? Tropical rainforests are generally warmer than temperate ones.

...many things we have in our homes come from rainforests including: chocolate, sugar, rubber, bamboo and many medicines?

5 Levels of carbon dioxide in the air are increasing and oxygen is decreasing.

