

Hyde Park Junior School – Geography

Topic: Rainforest

Year: 3

Strand: Physical Geography

Enquiry Question: What impact is cutting down the rainforest having on animal and human life?

Overview

By the end of the unit, children will have a core knowledge in terms of facts, location, names, physical and human features of rainforests. We will develop our understanding of how human actions can affect the environment and discuss the impact that they can have.



Key Vocabulary

rainforest – a dense forest, typically with lots of rain fall

weather - what the sky and the air outside are like

climate – what the weather is usually like in a place

tropical – places near the Equator

equator - the imaginary line that runs around the centre of the globe

hemisphere – one half of the Earth

time zones – imaginary lines dividing the world into different time zones

natural resources - anything that is found in nature that can be used by living things

environment - everything around us. All our surroundings including the air, soil, water, plants, and animals make up the environment.

air pollution – when unwanted chemicals and gasses enter the air

deforestation - the clearing, or cutting down, of forests

endangered species - animals that are in danger of becoming extinct

logging – cutting down trees

conservation - helping people manage renewable resources so they are kept in good supply



What Should I Already Know?

I can name and locate the world's seven continents and five oceans

I can name, locate, and identify characteristics of the four countries and capital cities of the United Kingdom and its surrounding seas

Rainforests are found in tropical areas. Rainforests are found in hot and wet areas.

Sometimes rainforests are cut down.

Many different animals live in rainforests, including some humans.

Important Information about the Rainforest

Tropical Rainforests of the World



Rainforests cover about 6% of the Earth's surface but are home to over half of the world's species of plants and animals.

Most rainforests are structured in four layers: emergent, canopy, understory, and forest floor. Each layer has unique characteristics based on differing levels of water, sunlight, and air circulation.

There are many tribes of people who call the rainforest home but the most well-known are the Yanomami tribe, the pygmy tribe and the Huli tribe.

People have been cutting down trees for thousands of years. In recent times, however, the number of forests being lost through deforestation has grown enormously. This is seen as a great problem that affects the environment in many important ways.

Geographical Skills and Enquiry

Enquiry questions:

Here are some questions that you could look in to.

- Are there any positive impacts to deforestation?
- What can be done to protect the rainforests?
- What are the similarities between the different rainforests around the world?
- What are the differences between the difference rainforest around the world?
- Some rainforest plants have been crucial in developing medicines. Can you find out which plants and how they are used?
- What is afforestation and how can it help?
- How do plants and animals adapt to life in the rainforest?



Skills:

- Can use world maps to locate areas of rainforests.
- Can make observations about physical features of rainforests.
- Use a range of information to find out about places and environments and to make simple inferences.
- Draw conclusions from evidence collected.
- Recognise and give some simple explanations in changes to physical features of a place/location.
- Use correct geographical vocabulary when describing the rainforest and in their explanations

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Question 1:	Start of unit:	End of unit:
Q1. On which continents can rainforests be found? Circle all that are correct.	Asia Africa North America Antarctica Europe Australia South America	Asia Africa North America Antarctica Europe Australia South America
Q2. On a map, what is the line around the centre of the Earth called?		
Q3. On a map, what are the lines on either side of the centre of the Earth called?		
Q4. Which of these is not a layer of the rainforest? Circle one	canopy, emergent, understory, bush layer, forest floor	canopy, emergent, understory, bush layer, forest floor
Q5. Which of these animals does not live in the rainforest?	snake, sloth, tiger, lion, toucan, tarantula	snake, sloth, tiger, lion, toucan, tarantula
Q6. Why are rainforests so important for plants and animals?		
Q7. Why are rainforests so important for humans?		
Q8. What is deforestation?	a) Forest fire b) Old trees dying c) Cutting down trees	a) Forest fire b) Old trees dying c) Cutting down trees
Q9. What does the rafflesia plant smell of?	a) rotting meat b) old shoes c) burning plastic	a) rotting meat b) old shoes c) burning plastic
Q10. True or false: Everybody can help to save the rainforest.		