



The Amazon



Year: Four
Term: Spring

Prior knowledge for teachers

Children will continue to build on their knowledge of the world and now begin to explore parts of the continent of South America, with the main focus on the Amazon. They will be locating key countries in

South America and its major cities, focusing on the key physical and human features seen in these countries. Once the children have a secure knowledge of this they will then be moving onto studying one of South America's main feature: The Amazon Rainforest. They will be retrieving key knowledge from previous years and topics, such as, climate zones, the equator and the poles to help them understand why this location has these features. Children will be able to describe the vegetation that is seen here and understand the reasons behind this, exploring how this might change over time. The Amazon rainforest will be compared with a temperate forest in the UK.

Key vocabulary

- **Biodiversity** - The existence of a large number of different kinds of animals and plants which make a balanced environment
- **Climate** - The overall weather conditions of a place or region throughout the year.
- **Climate Change** – A change in climate over a period of time for one particular area or the whole world. This can be brought on by the effects of pollution.
- **Conservation** – The protection of the natural environment.
- **Continent:** A continent is one of Earth's seven main divisions of land. The continents are, from largest to smallest: Asia, Africa, North America, South America, Antarctica, Europe, and Australasia.
- **Deforestation** - the act of cutting down or burning the trees in an area
- **Extinction** - A situation in which a plant, an animal, a way of life, etc. stops existing
- **Habitat** - the place where a particular type of animal or plant is normally found
- **Latitude** - Lines running parallel to the equator.
- **Longitude** - Lines which join the North and South Poles.
- **Tropic of Cancer** - An imaginary line of latitude 23.5°C north of the equator.
- **Tropic of Capricorn** - An imaginary line of latitude 23.5°C south of the equator.
- **Rainforest** – A dense forest rich in biodiversity, found typically in tropical areas with consistently heavy rainfall. Layers: emergent, canopy, understory, forest floor.
- **Temperate Forest** – A forest having a temperate climate – located in temperate zones.

Year 4 – The Amazon

Geography - Know that geography is the study of places and the relationships between people and their environments

Question – Explain the similarities and differences between the characteristics of the forests found in the UK compared to that of the Amazon.

Botanical gardens/ local forest (features)

	Key geography knowledge	Key geography skills
Week 1 (Retrieval)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Know the names of the seven continents and name on a world map and globe: Europe, North America, South America, Africa, Asia, Australasia and Antarctica ● Know the location of the equator and North and South Poles - know that they are the cold parts of the Earth ● Know that there is one global ocean that is often divided into five distinct oceans and locate them on a world map and globe: the Pacific Ocean, the Atlantic Ocean, the Indian Ocean, the Southern Ocean and the Arctic Ocean ● Know that an endangered species is one that is threatened by extinction ● Know that the world is split into climate zones and this can affect the types of vegetation in that zone. ● Know the location of the tropic of Cancer/Capricorn. 	<p><u>To locate places</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● I can locate South America and some of its countries (including major cities and human and physical characteristics). <p><u>To understand places and the geographical patterns and processes</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● I can understand the geographical similarities and differences between a region of the UK and a region within South America (Amazon). ● I can describe and understand key aspects of physical geography: the vegetation and how these might have changed over time. <p><u>To organise and communicate geographically</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● I can express my own views by responding to questions about locations and accept others have different opinions. ● I can use the eight points of a compass to communicate knowledge of the United Kingdom and the wider world.
Week 2/3	<p>South America - Countries and capital cities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● South America is made up of 12 countries. ● Suriname is the smallest country in South America. ● Brazil is the largest country. ● Climate can vary due to its size. ● S. America’s population 435,611,761 (2021) <p>Locate following countries and capital cities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Brazil – Brasilia ● Argentina - Buenos Aires ● Suriname - Paramaribo ● Panama - Panama City ● Galapagos island - Puerto Baquerizo Moreno ● Chile – Santiago <p>South America’s characteristics</p> <p>Physical</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Iguazu Falls - borders of Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay ● Amazon rainforest ● Amazon river ● Andes Mountains ● Atacama Desert – Chile ● Cape horn <p>Human</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Statue of Christ the Redeemer – Brazil ● Machu Picchu – Peru ● Puente de la Mujer (Women’s bridge) – Argentina ● Nazca Desert lines - Peru <p>Use compass directions to describe the position to each other.</p>	
Week 4	Introduce the Amazon.	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Tropical rainforests are found on and near to the EQUATOR. They are found all around the circumference of the Earth. They are COASTAL and INLAND. ● Know that there are tropics to the north and south of the Equator - the Tropic of Cancer to the north and the Tropic of Capricorn to the south – and that the Amazon rainforest is located in and around the Tropic of Capricorn ● Know the Amazon rainforest is located in South America. ● The Amazon is 5,500,000 square kilometres of rainforest, with parts in Brazil, Peru , Colombia , Venezuela, Ecuador, Bolivia, Guyana, Suriname and French Guiana. ● Know that the Amazon River runs through the rainforest - carries more water than any other river on Earth <p>Children will use a world map to identify the areas where rainforests can be found. They will use these maps to identify the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn and are challenged to transfer this knowledge and understanding on their own maps, identifying the countries and continents where rainforests are found including the Amazon.</p>	
Week 5	<p><u>Layers/features of a rainforest – types of vegetation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Know that a rainforest is made up four layers: an emergent layer, which is the uppermost layer (the treetops); a canopy layer, which is a middle layer of closely-growing tree branches and leaves; an understory, which is made up of smaller trees, plants and shrubbery beneath the canopy layer; and the forest floor, the ground level of the rainforest, home to large mammals not suited to climbing 	
Week 6	<p>Compare the Amazon to a forest in the UK. For example Sherwood forest – similarities and differences.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Know the types of forests found in the UK – linked to climate zones. ● What are the UK forests like compared to the Amazon? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Location - Size - Rivers passing through? - Vegetation (plants) - Animals - Inhabitants - Human effects 	

Week 7

Changes to the Amazon and UK forests

- Know that large parts of the Amazon rainforest – like most rainforests across the world – are being cut down for timber and to make way for farming; the current rate equates to an area around 80 times the size of our school field being cut down every minute; know that this process is called deforestation.
- Know what is happening in the UK to our forests. Is deforestation occurring? What schemes if any are in place?
- Know that deforestation is threatening many animals and plants with extinction, as well as contributing to climate change; $\frac{1}{10}$ of all the world's species of plants and animals; around $\frac{1}{4}$ of all modern medicines originated rainforests; there may be many more to be found that won't be due to deforestation
- Know what is being done to protect the rainforests and prevent deforestation.
- Children to express their views and opinions on this and accept others might have a different view.