

# The Amazing Amazon

How has the Amazon Rainforest changed over time?

How important is the Amazon River to the rainforest?

## The Amazon Rainforest

- 5.5 million square km (previously covered a much larger area)
- Parts in Brazil, Peru, Colombia, Venezuela, Ecuador, Bolivia, Guyana, Suriname and French Guiana
- 2.5 million insect **species**
- 40 000+ plant **species**
- 3 000 edible fruits
- 2 000+ **species** of birds and mammals



- 2 million tourists per year
- 170 different languages spoken
- 250 000 **native tribes** currently live there











## Climate

The **climate** in the rainforest is the same all year round.

- Average rainfall of 6cm each month
- Usually rains every day
- Hot and **humid**

## Vocabulary

Deforestation	Delta
Equator	Oxbow lake
Humid	Estuary
Native tribes	Canopy
Species	Emergent
Confluence	Understorey
Mouth	Forest floor

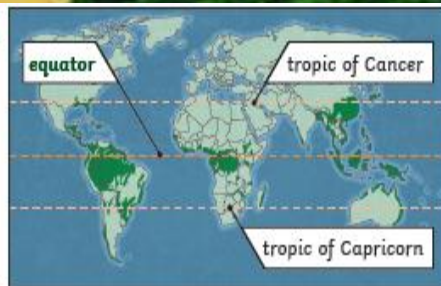
Emergent Layer	Canopy Layer	Understorey Layer	Forest Floor
			
Trees can be up to 60m tall	Trees form a roof over the plants below	Trees grow to less than 4m tall	Very few plants
Lots of sunlight	Lots of sunlight but also plenty of rain	Very little sunlight	Almost no sunlight
Cold and windy	Lots of food for animals	Warm and <b>humid</b>	Leaves and debris decompose quickly
Birds, bats, monkeys and butterflies	Snakes, toucans and tree frogs	Lots of insects	Gorillas, anteaters, leopards and tigers
			

## Where in the World?

Rainforests are found near to the equator between the tropic of Cancer and the tropic of Capricorn.

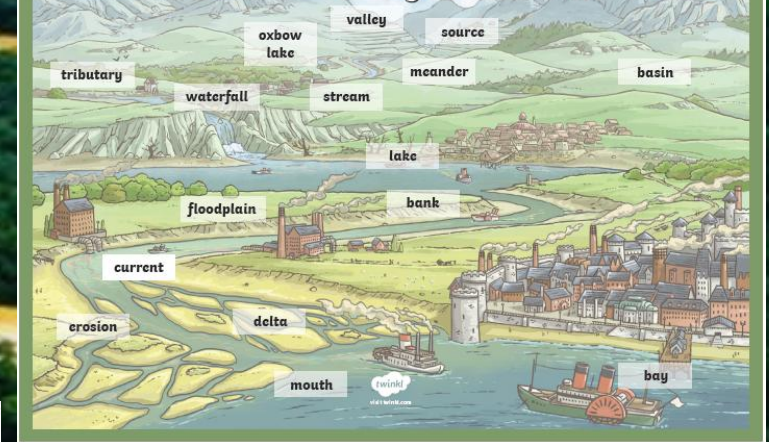
They can be found in every continent except Antarctica.

They are located in countries such as Brazil, India, Peru, Mexico, Australia and Malaysia.



Over the past 60 years, over 1 million square kilometres (17%) of the Amazon Rainforest has been destroyed!

## Features of a River



The Amazon river is thought to be at least **6,400km** long but no one knows exactly how long it is for sure because it is so hard to measure.

The Amazon river and its tributaries flow through many countries, including Peru, Bolivia, Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador and Brazil.

The Amazon river is thought to be the world's **second longest** river but it is the **largest** river in the world in terms of the volume of water that it discharges.

The Amazon river begins in the Andes Mountains, although there is some debate about its precise source. From there, it flows all the way to the Atlantic Ocean.

Humans use the hydroelectric power of the Amazon river as a sustainable source of energy.