

Rainforest Biome

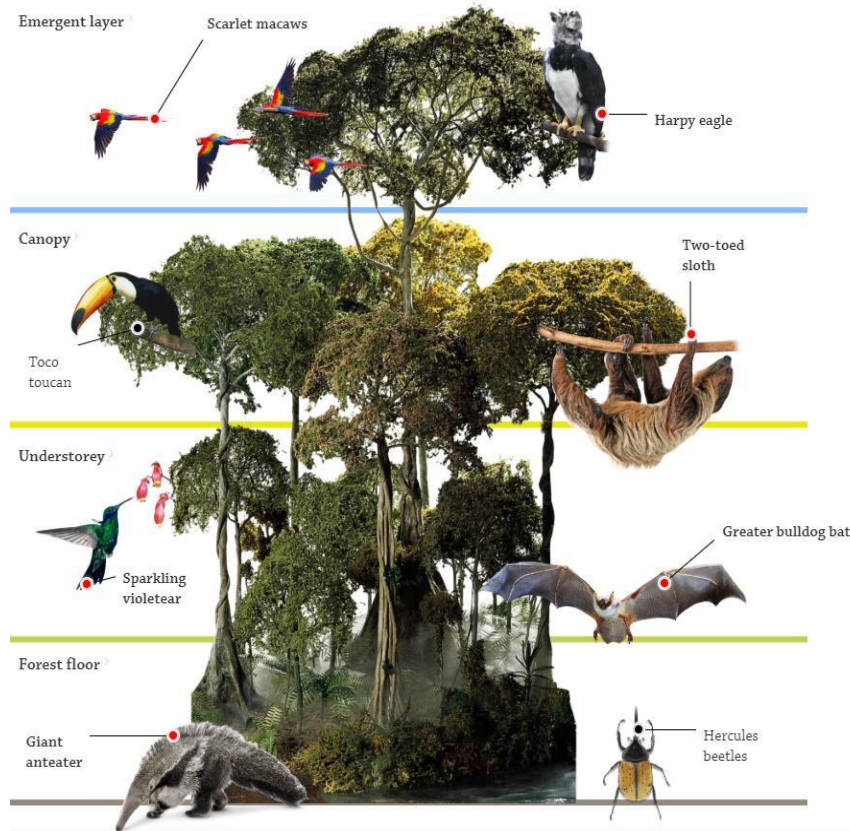
There are two types of rainforests, **tropical** and **temperate**. Tropical rainforests are found closer to the **equator** where it is warm. Temperate rainforests are found near the cooler coastal areas further north or south of the equator.

Rainforests cover about 6 percent the total surface area of the Earth.

More than half of the world's species of plants and animals are found in the rainforests.

The tropical rainforest is a hot, moist **biome** where it rains all year long.

Rainforests are divided into 4 layers, or storeys: emergent layer, canopy, understorey and forest floor. Each layer receives a different amount of sunlight and rainfall, so different types of animals and plants are found in each layer.



Key Vocab

Equator	An imaginary circle around the middle of the Earth
Biome	Areas of our planet with similar climates, landscapes, animals and plants.
Ecosystem	A community of plants and animals which depend on each other to survive
Species	A group of animals, plants or other living things that all share common characteristics. <i>From the Latin species ("appearance")</i>
Tropical zone	A region of the Earth surrounding the equator, between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn
Temperate zone	The regions of the Earth between the Tropic of Cancer and the Arctic Circle in the Northern Hemisphere and between the Tropic of Capricorn and the Antarctic Circle in the Southern Hemisphere.



Amazon Rainforest

The Amazon is the world's largest tropical rainforest with parts in Brazil, Peru, Colombia, Venezuela, Ecuador, Bolivia, Guyana, Suriname and French Guiana. Most of it (90%) is in Brazil.

Tribes of people still live in the Amazon rainforest with no contact to the outside world.

The Amazon rainforest is home to about 2.5 million insect **species**, tens of thousands of plant species, and over 2,000 species of birds and mammals.

1/10 of all known plant and animal species on the planet live in the Amazon rainforest.

Grizedale Forest

Grizedale Forest is an area of woodland in the heart of the Lake District World Heritage site in North West England.

It is a **temperate** forest biome. Here, the climate is generally moderate, and has distinct seasons. Winters vary from cold to mild. Grizedale forest is dominated by hardwood broadleaved trees, most of which are deciduous (lose their leaves each winter), for example, oak and beech. Animals include rabbits, deer and fox.

The Forestry Commission looks after Grizedale forest. They look after more than 1500 woods and forests in England –together they make up the Public Forest Estate. All their forests are located within the temperate forest biome.

Timber from trees in the forest is used to make things. The Forestry Commission plants enough trees to replace any that are felled (cut down). This makes the way that they manage the forest sustainable, and means that the forest will always be there for animals and birds to live in, and for you to enjoy!



Lady of the Forest sculpture in Grizedale Forest

What are some differences between Grizedale forest and the Amazon rainforest?

Grizedale forest (temperate)

It has seasons - here we experience variations in temperature and rainfall throughout the year.

Dominated by deciduous trees. These are the ones that lose their leaves in autumn, and are predominantly broadleaved.

The diversity of species is lower.

Grizedale forest is managed sustainably by the Forestry Commission.

Amazon rainforest (tropical)

It is hot and wet all the time.

Filled with trees that stay green all year, with palms being one of the most common tree types.

The Amazon is believed to have tens of thousands of species of plants, many of which are still undiscovered.

Around 20% of the Amazon rainforest has been destroyed by logging, or cleared to make way for agriculture.



Grizedale Forest

