

The rainforest canopy

The rainforest canopy is divided into four main layers: the **emergent layer** consists of the tallest trees (emergent trees) which can grow to heights of 70m. These trees act as a buffer, sheltering the lower trees from heavy rains.

Beneath this layer is the main **canopy** of smaller trees which are intertwined with climbing vines and hold flowering plants, called epiphytes, on their branches.

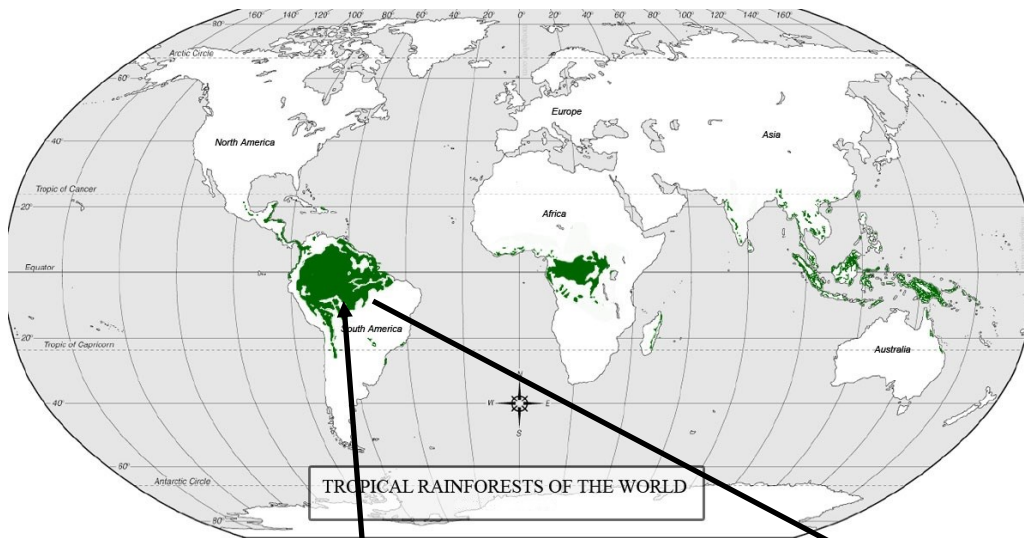
Below this is the **understorey** containing young saplings and shrubs.

The final layer, the dark **forest floor**, contains only a few plants, as only 2% of the sunlight reaches this layer of the forest, making it difficult for plants to grow.



What is a biome? What are the 5 major types?

A biome is a large area characterized by its vegetation, soil, climate, and wildlife. There are 5 main types of biomes: aquatic, grassland, forest, desert, and tundra, though some of these biomes can be further divided into more specific categories, such as freshwater, marine, savanna, tropical rainforest, temperate rainforest, and taiga.



The Amazon is of vital importance because people around the world, as well as locally, depend on the rainforest. Not just for food, water, wood and medicines, but to help stabilise the climate—150-200 billion tons of carbon is stored and oxygen released in the Amazon rainforest. The trees in the Amazon also release 20 billion tonnes of water into the atmosphere per day, playing a critical role in global and regional carbon and water cycle.

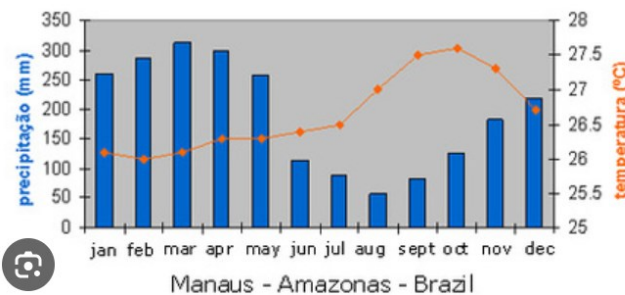
Forests are destroyed for a number of reasons:-

- 1) The growth of populations in countries with rainforest.
- 2) An increase in worldwide demand for tropical hardwoods has put a greater strain on the rainforests.
- 3) Cattle Grazing in South America.
- 4) Soya plantations in South America.
- 5) Palm oil plantations in Indonesia.
- 6) Mining.
- 7) Hydroelectric dams in South America.



Climate

Temperature and Precipitation Chart (Yearly)



Humid and warm, the region has all the typical attributes of a tropical environment. Temperatures usually average 27.9 C during the dry season, and 25.8 C during the rainy season.