

# Rainforests – Why should the rainforests be important to us all?

245 million  
Dinosaurs

0 Jesus

1926  
Sir David Attenborough

1965  
Brazil Forest Code

1968  
Phillipa Forrester

2000  
New millennium

2023  
Present

## Overview

The **rainforests** are known as 'The lungs of the planet'.

Tropical **rainforests** are lush, warm, wet **habitats**. Trees grow extremely tall (between 40-80 metres) as they compete for sunlight in near perfect growing conditions.

The **rainforest** has 4 layers. From the ground up, these are called the **forest floor**, **understory**, **canopy** and **emergent** layer.

Tropical **rainforests** are a rich source of plant, insect and animal life (birds, fish, mammals, reptiles and amphibians). Tropical **rainforests** are home to half of all of the living plant and animal **species** on the planet. Many medicines we use originate from plant **species** from the **rainforests**.

However, **rainforests** are under threat, being exploited by humans for the resources and land that they provide. Trees are cut down for wood and the land is cleared for farming and housing.

Organisations such as the **Rainforest Alliance** help with the conservation of the rainforests, meaning they work to preserve them for generations to come. They work with indigenous people (humans who originate from that area), companies and governments to discuss how to best protect these threatened areas of our world.

## Key Vocabulary

<b>Rainforest</b>	Dense forests receiving high amounts of rain.
<b>Environment</b>	Our physical surroundings including the air, soil, water, plants and animals.
<b>Forest Floor</b>	The bottom layer of the <b>rainforest</b> .
<b>Understory</b>	The second layer of the <b>rainforest</b> above the forest floor and beneath the <b>canopy</b> layer.
<b>Canopy</b>	The third layer of the <b>rainforest</b> above the <b>canopy</b> and beneath the understory layer.
<b>Emergent</b>	The top layer of the <b>rainforest</b> , where only the tallest trees emerge above the <b>canopy</b> .
<b>Habitat</b>	The place where an animal or plant lives and where it can get food, water, air and shelter.
<b>Species</b>	A group of similar animals or plants that are able to reproduce.
<b>Conservation</b>	Protecting our natural environment and the wildlife that lives in it.

## Key People and Organisations



Sir David Attenborough

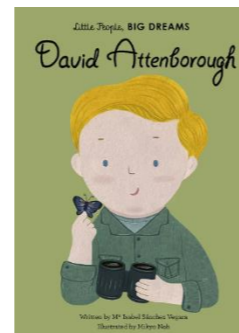
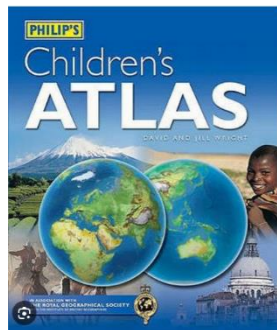


Phillipa Forrester



Rainforest Alliance

## Resources we use



## Links to other learning

### Science:

Habitats and micro-habitats in the Amazon rainforest in Brazil. Observing and measuring how plants grow. Constructing a food chain.

### DT:

Designing, constructing and evaluating a buggy to be used to travel through the rainforest.

How is the rainforest threatened?

What lives in a rainforest?

Key Questions

Where are the rainforests?

How are we protecting the rainforests?