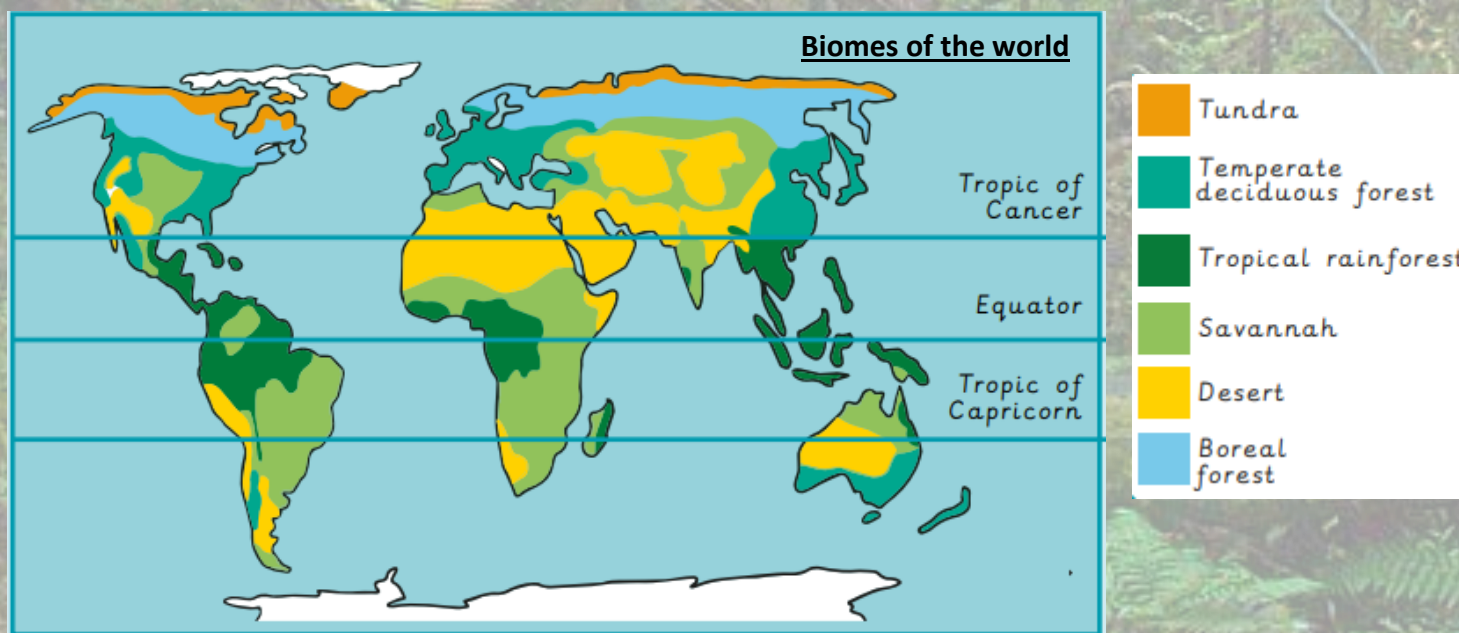


## Geography Overview

A *biome* is an area of the world with a similar climate and landscape, where similar plants and animals live. Between the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn we find the hottest and wettest climates on our globe. Rainforests need this heat and water to grow their particular vegetation.

*Vegetation belts* are regions where similar plants grow; these are influenced by climate. Many people live in the Amazon rainforest including *indigenous* people. Rainforests produce half of the world's plants and animals. Many of these plants are used to make medicines.



## Key Vocabulary

biome  
 buttress roots  
 canopy  
 deforestation  
 drought  
 emergent layer  
 Equator  
 forest floor  
 global warming  
 greenhouse gas  
 indigenous people  
 lines of latitude  
 logging  
 mining  
 Tropic of Cancer  
 Tropic of Capricorn  
 understory  
 vegetation  
 vegetation belts

# Why are rainforests so important to us?

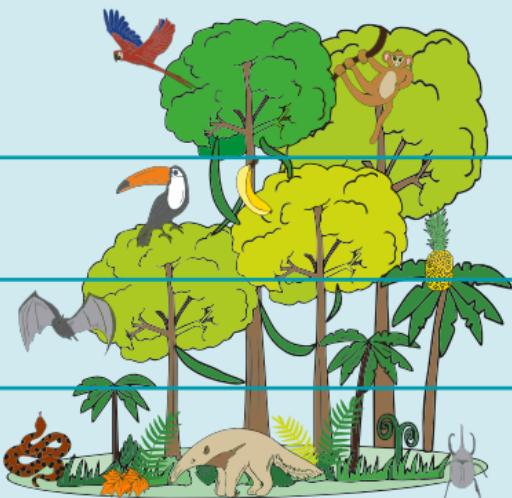
## Layers of the rainforest

emergent layer

canopy layer

understory layer

forest floor



emergent layer

The top layer of the rainforest with the tallest trees that get lots of sunlight, rain and wind.

canopy layer

The layer of overlapping branches and leaves below the top of the rainforest that gets sunlight, rain and wind.

understory layer

The warm and damp layer above the forest floor that gets little light.

forest floor

The ground layer of the rainforest where it is dark, wet and hot.

## How have plants adapted in the Amazon rainforest?



Thin, smooth bark ensures rain can run off trees easily.



Buttress roots keep tall trees stable in the wet soil and strong winds.



Drip tips mean rain can run off leaves without damaging them.



Lianas (vines) wind their way up other plants to reach sunlight.

## Map of the Amazon rainforest

