



Rainforests (click for more detail)

Connect: Bristol (Y3), Our World Our Future (Y4), Explorers (Y5)

The rainforests are the lungs of the Earth and are vitally important for our future. They are also fascinating to study and are a great context for learning about geography. Our work on Rainforests follows on from the topic 'Our World Our Future', where children looked at environmental challenges we face (and where children will have touched on the importance of the rainforests), and the Year 5 topic, Explorers, especially through Katherine Rundell's book 'The Explorer'

We will use rainforests as a context for looking at the world's biomes and weather/ climate. We will be carrying out a fieldwork project into the weather in the school grounds and comparing it with data from Manaus, Brazil.

Our main focus will be on the Amazon rainforest, looking at changes over time and examining settlements of varying sizes within it. We will be carrying out a detailed comparison with the city of Manaus and Bristol, building on understanding of our locality which the children developed in Year 3.

We will be thinking of the importance of the rainforest in our everyday lives, examining products at home and in school that may have originated in the rainforests and how they arrived here through international trade.

We will be looking at the work of scientists working in the rainforest with specific reference to Jane Goodall and Ynes Mexia, who was suggested by one of our children.

To finish our topic, we are planning a Rainforest Experience afternoon where parents will be invited to share in the geographical enquiries designed and carried out by the children.

Preview: Maya (Y6), Science (habitats) Y6

Rainforests



Key vocabulary:

Tropic of Capricorn, Tropic of Cancer, Equator, weather, climate, biome, vegetation belts, tropical rainforest, broadleaf forest, coniferous forest, taiga, tundra, savannah, desert, precipitation, temperature

Significant people:

Ynes Mexia (botanist, links: Mexico, Ecuador, Peru)
Jane Goodall (Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, Tanzania)

Subject specific skills

Name and locate countries in **South America**.
A case study comparing similarities and differences between two cities (Bristol and Manaus) with specific reference to |:
-Weather and climate
-Settlement and development
Human geography including types of settlement and land use and trade links.
Describe and understand key aspects of physical geography including:
-climate zones
-biomes
-vegetation belts.
Fieldwork: Use equipment to collect data, analyse and draw conclusions (weather station comparing Bristol and Manaus)

Essential takeaways

- Name and locate: Venezuela, Brazil, Suriname, Colombia, Peru, Bolivia
- Name and locate: Tropics of Capricorn and Cancer, Equator
- Rainforests are found on every continent except Antarctica. The largest tropical rainforests surround the Amazon and Congo rivers
- Name 3 similarities and differences between Bristol and Manaus
- What is the difference between weather and climate
- There are settlements of different sizes in the rainforests
- Name 3 products that can be obtained through trade links with the rainforest

Cross curricular opportunities

English: The Explorer, Stories from another culture, Rainforest leaflet
Maths: Data presentation
Art: Printing- rainforest themed
Music: Soundscape
Rainforest experience: For parents
DT: Cams

Builds on:

[Brilliant Bristol](#) (settlements part 1) (Y3), [Our world, Our Future](#) (Y4), [Explorers](#) (Y5)

Prepares for:

[The Maya](#) (Y6),