



Topic Overview

Faculty/Subject: Geography

Year Group: 7

Topic: Ecosystems



What BIG IDEAS will you cover in this topic?

The world is divided into different biomes, each with its own climate, plants and animals.
Tropical rainforests are complex ecosystems with different layers and extremely high biodiversity.
Plants and animals have special adaptations that help them survive in rainforest conditions.
Tropical rainforests are important for people and the planet, but they are threatened by deforestation.
Human activities can create conflict between economic development and protecting the environment.

What other key concepts, knowledge and skills will you learn in this topic?

Use maps to locate the world's major biomes
Describe the four main layers of a tropical rainforest: the emergent layer, canopy, under-canopy and forest floor.
Explain how rainforest plants and animals are adapted to high rainfall, heat, competition and limited sunlight.
Develop map-reading, image-analysis, description and explanation skills.

What important prior knowledge will you use from your prior learning?

An understanding of the environment within the UK such as in the Lake District in topic 2. Link their knowledge of the climate and ecosystems in the UK to others around the world including tropical rainforests.

Where does this topic fit into the curriculum plan for this subject?

This is the fourth topic which will be covered in Year 7 and it will be the second physical geography topic.

Assessment:

How and when will you be assessed on this topic?

What will the success criteria be?

- Written question - students will write an answer explaining the adaptations that animals and plants have within the rainforest using a set structure.
- End of topic assessment - Students will complete an end of topic assessment and receive feedback on this in the next lesson.

What is the key vocabulary that you will need to know in this topic?

Biome, ecosystem, climate, tropical rainforest, biodiversity, adaptation, emergent layer, canopy, under-canopy, forest floor, competition, buttress roots, drip-tip leaves, lianas, cattle ranching, mining, habitat loss, extinction, carbon dioxide, climate change and conservation.

What is the structure of learning/ lessons in this topic?

1. Biomes
2. Tropical Rainforest (TRF) - Structure
3. TRF - Adaptations and Biodiversity
4. TRF - Planet Earth Adaptations
5. TRF - Deforestation