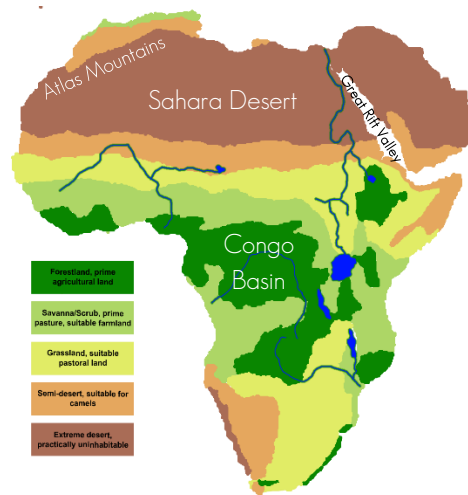
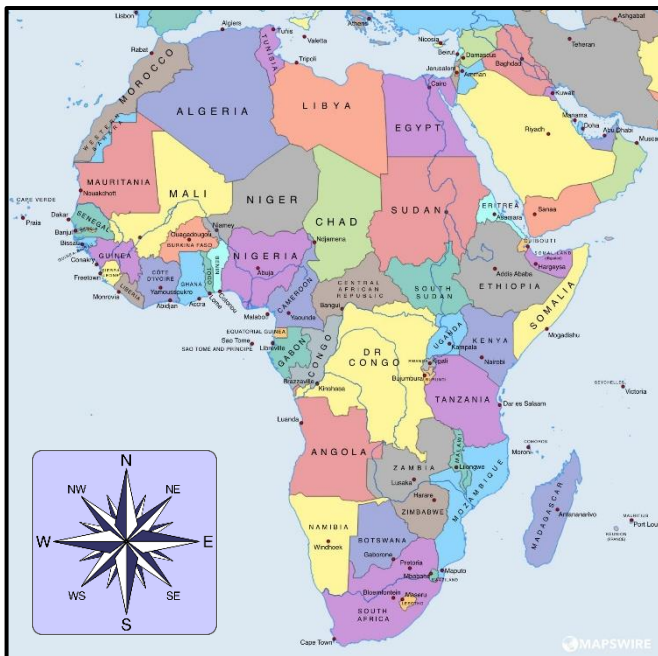




LARGEST POPULATIONS

Nigeria

(201 million people)



Ethiopia

(110 million people)



Egypt

(101 million people)



TALLEST MOUNTAINS



Mt Kilimanjaro (Tanzania) 5895m
Mt Kenya (Kenya) 5199m
Mawenzi Peak (Tanzania) 5149m

LONGEST RIVERS

Nile - 6650km (Egypt/Sudan)

Congo - 4700km (D.R. Congo)

Niger - 4180km (Nigeria/Niger/Mali/Benin/Guinea)

AFRICA

Physical Features

Sahara Desert



This used to be a lush region with many plants/animals but dried out 4000 years ago. It covers 3.6million km² and is one of the hottest places on Earth (up to 46°C) but often below freezing at night. Known for sand dunes and salt flats.

Congo Basin



The Congo rainforest in central Africa contains one of the longest rivers in the world, the Congo River. The tropical rainforest is home to a diverse range of plants and animals.

Atlas Mountains



The Atlas Mountains are a mountain range in northwest Africa. They run 2,410km from the Atlantic coast of Morocco to northeast Tunisia. They are not all joined and are separated by large areas of land called plateaus.

Great Rift Valley



Stretches from the Middle East in the north to Mozambique in the south and is geologically active featuring volcanoes, hot springs, geysers and frequent earthquakes.

Human Features

Deforestation



The leading cause of deforestation in Africa is due to large numbers of developing countries relying heavily on wood fuel, the major energy source for cooking and heating. This occurs in Sub-Saharan areas.

Poaching

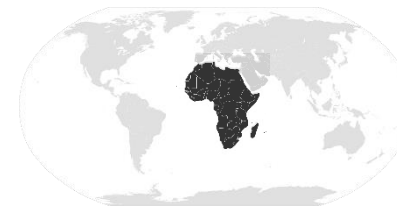


Illegal poaching and trade of endangered animals has been a huge issue in Africa for many years. Elephant tusks (ivory) and rhino horns (hair) are removed after killing the animal and then sold for huge prices.

Famine and Poverty



27 of the world's poorest 28 countries live in Sub-Saharan Africa where there is a lack of access to safe water and sanitation. This has been the result of political instability, conflicts, climate change and man-made causes.



FACT BOX

Africa is a continent made up of 54 different countries with Algeria being the largest in terms of area (2.4 million km²).

Key Vocabulary

cash crop	exported crops such as coffee, sugar, rubber and tea
cricket	South Africa are one of the world's best teams
desertification	when fertile land becomes desert
drought	very low rainfall leading to water shortages
equator	Gabon, D.R. Congo, Uganda, Kenya and Somalia are on the equator, which is a line separating the northern and southern hemispheres of Earth.
Fair Trade	designed to help producers in developing countries achieve better trading conditions
Kalahari Desert	dry savannah covering Botswana in the south
Lake Victoria	source of the River Nile in eastern Africa
plateau	area of highland, raised above the surrounding area
safari	to observe/hunt animals in their natural habitat
savannah	woodland /grassland ecosystem with spaced out trees
subsistence farming	farmers grow food crops to feed themselves and their families, widely used in Africa
Table Mountain	flat-topped mountain overlooking Cape Town in South Africa and a tourist attraction
valley	low area of land between hills/mountains

FAUNA (ANIMALS)

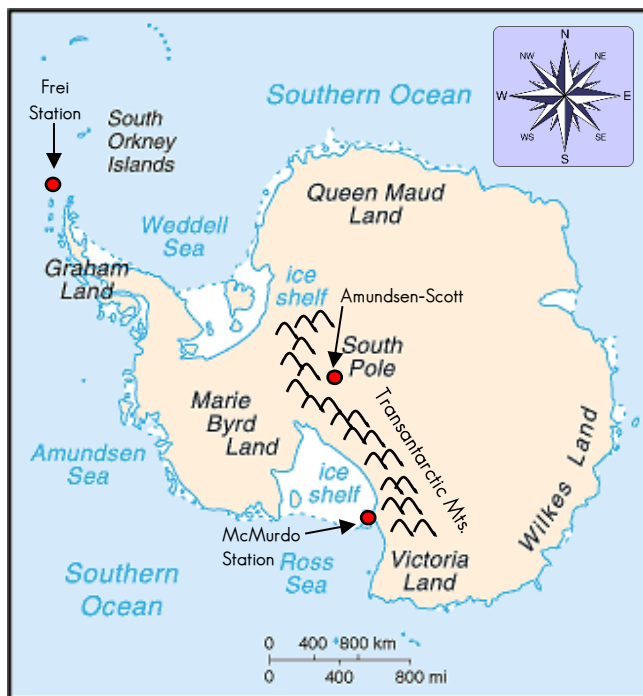


Examples: giraffes, rhinoceros, lions, hippopotamuses, gorillas, crocodiles and elephants (also - zebras, antelopes and cheetahs).

FLORA (PLANTS)



Baobab tree Acacia tree Kapok tree Red hot poker elephant grass



CLIMATE

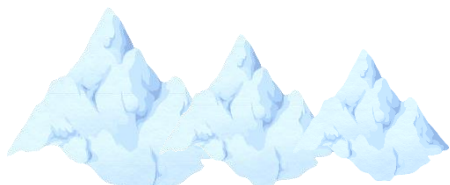
The Antarctic is the coldest, driest and windiest continent, even considered a desert due to its low rainfall. 98% of the continent is covered in ice and there are no permanent residents. Temperatures range from -30°C in summer to -60°C in winter.

LONGEST RIVERS



Onyx - 32km
Jemmi Creek - 10.3km
Aiken Creek - 6km

TALLEST MOUNTAINS



Mount Vinson 4892m
Tyree 4852m
Gardner 4685m

POPULATIONS

McMurdo Station (U.S.A.)
(1000 people)



Amundsen-Scott (U.S.A.)
(200 people)



Frei Station (Chile)
(170 people)



ANTARCTICA

Physical Features

Glacial Ice Sheets



Antarctica is made up of the East and the West Antarctic Ice Sheets, the East being thicker, larger and the oldest of the two. The Transantarctic mountains separate these two areas.

Islands and Ice Shelves



Some islands are permanently linked to the mainland by ice whereas others connect seasonally due to sea ice expansion and retreat. The Ross Ice Shelf (at the south) is the largest of these and covers an area larger than the U.K.

The Dry Valleys



Found in high altitude areas such as Victoria Land near the McMurdo research station. They can have enough melting in summer to allow some land to be free of glaciers.

MORE - There are many active and dormant volcanoes. Mount Erebus is one of these and there is one on Deception Island which is below the surface of the ice and creates subglacial eruptions. There is also the 'midnight sun' which is where the sun never sets in summer. However, in winter it can be permanent darkness too.

Human Features

Melting of the Ice



Global warming is melting the Antarctic Ice Sheet, causing sea levels to rise and is affecting wildlife which rely on the ice. Burning fossil fuels and farming has contributed to this.

Race to the South Pole



The first expedition to reach the South Pole was led by the Norwegian explorer Roald Amundsen. He and four others arrived at the pole on 14 December 1911, five weeks ahead of a British party led by Robert Falcon Scott as part of the Terra Nova Expedition.

McMurdo Station



Antarctica has no town or cities with a living population. It does, however, have many research bases. McMurdo Station is on New Zealand claimed Ross Dependency. Other countries who claim territories are Australia, U.K., Norway, Chile, France and Argentina.

Arctic Circle



Antarctica

FACT BOX

If Antarctica was a country, it would be the 5th largest by size. It is twice the size of Australia measuring 14.2 million km²

Key Vocabulary

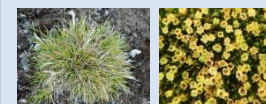
Antarctic Circle	one of earth's five circles of latitude
Antarctic Ocean	another name for the Southern Ocean
blizzard	a severe snowstorm with high winds
conservation	protection of natural environment and wildlife
frostbite	injury caused by exposure to extreme cold
glacier	a slow-moving mass or river of ice
Ice Age	when thick ice sheets called glaciers cover huge areas of land, which can last for millions of years and cause big changes to Earth's surface - have happened a number of times throughout Earth's history
iceberg	a large floating mass of ice broken from a glacier or ice sheet and carried out to sea.
ice floe	a sheet of floating ice
pack ice	a mass of ice floating in the sea
South Pole	South Magnetic Pole shifting within Antarctica
territory	area of land under someone's control
treaty	an Antarctic Treaty, signed in 1959, was to ensure that Antarctica continues to be used for peaceful purposes only

FAUNA (ANIMALS)



Examples: emperor penguins, elephant seals, south polar skuas, killer whales (orcas), chinstrap penguins and crabeater seals.

FLORA (PLANTS)



Examples: not much can grow in such harsh conditions, but Antarctic grass hair and pearlwort manage to survive.

Headland Erosion

Cliffs



Cliffs are vertical (or nearly vertical) rock exposures caused by weather and sea erosion. It marks the end of the land where a sea or river begins. They can also be created in mountainous areas.

Arches



Arches are formed when weaker parts of the cliff are eroded over hundreds of years by water and forms a cave. Water finally breaks through the rock, leaving a large hole through which water can pass.

Stacks



Once an arch is formed, continuous erosion of the rocks by weather and the sea makes the arch so large that it collapses leaving tall stacks instead.

Stumps



Stumps are stacks which have been eroded further by the weather and the sea. Stacks eventually collapse to leave short stumps of rock jutting out of the sea.

Sea Defences

Groynes



Groynes interrupt wave action and protect the beach from being washed away by longshore drift. Longshore drift is the wave action that slowly erodes the beach. They are wooded structures that last around 25 years.

Sea Walls



Sea walls aim to protect the coastline from flooding and erosion. They can be made from rocks, steel or other heavy materials but they can be very expensive to make and maintain. Gabions act in a similar way and are bundles of rocks inside a metal mesh.

Other Features

Sheltered Bays



A wide inlet of sea where the land curves inwards. It connects a larger body of water such as an ocean or lake. A cove is a smaller type of bay with a narrow entrance.

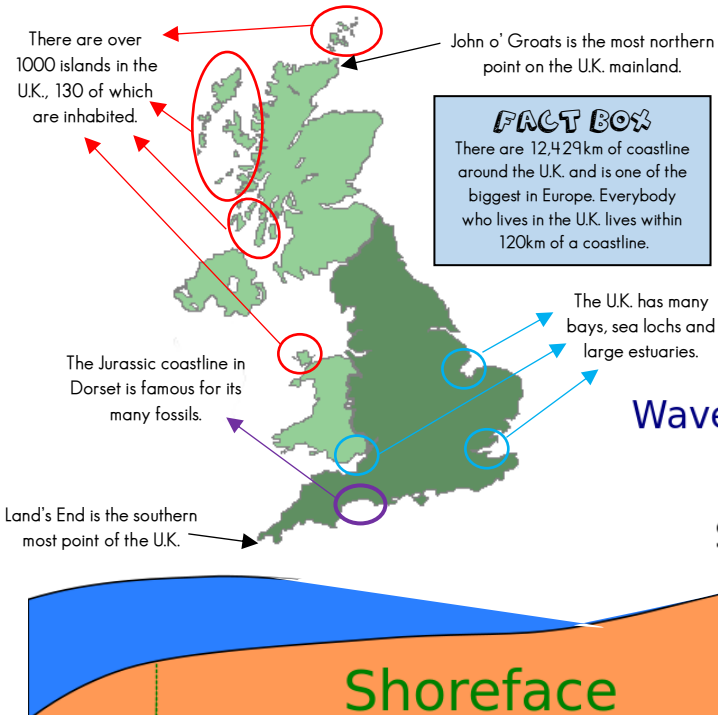
Peninsulas



A peninsula is a piece of land almost entirely surrounded by water or sticking out into a body of water but is still connected to the mainland. It is therefore surrounded by water on three sides.

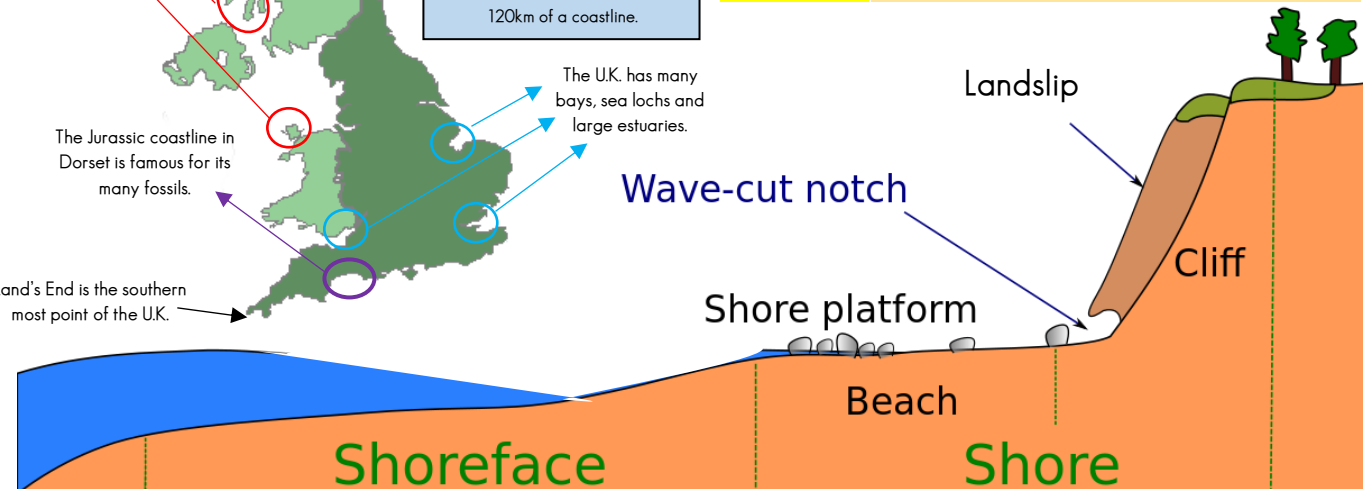
COASTS

The coastline is forever changing shape. Over hundreds of years, waves crash against headlands and cliffs, wearing away the land. These waves also build up sheltered bays and beaches. However, storms and rough seas can sometimes erode the land in just a few hours.



Key Vocabulary

abrasion	scraping or wearing away, often caused by stones
undercut	wave-cut notch / wears away the bottom of a cliff
mudflats	a stretch of muddy land left uncovered at low tide
shingle	a mass of small rounded pebbles on a seashore
headland	narrow piece of land sticking out into the sea
erosion	the wearing away of rock and land by frost, rivers, waves, wind and ice
cave	chamber on the side of a cliff worn by erosion
sand dune	a hill of loose sand built up by wind along a beach
beach	waves leave sand on land and it is smoothed by waves - can also be made of pebbles or rocks
landslip	collapse of a mass of earth or rock from a cliff
tide	the rising and falling of the sea, usually twice in each day at a particular place, due to the attraction of the moon and sun



FACT BOX

Much of the plastic we use and throw away can end up in the sea. Ocean currents then bring plastics back onshore and leave them on beaches. Every day, approximately 8 million pieces of plastic pollution find their way into our oceans.

SEA

The sea is made up of salty water and contains creatures such as fish, seals, jellyfish and starfish.

LOWER BEACH

This area is filled with sand but can sometimes be made of rocks and pebbles. Worms and shells can be found here.

UPPER BEACH

Beyond the beach, rock pools and shingle and pebbles create an environment suitable for seaweed and barnacles.

CLIFF BASE

Large boulders and rocks form at the base of a cliff due to landslides. Here, wood, rubbish and dead seaweed remain.

CLIFF

This steep rock face can have narrow ledges, cave sand is home to birds, flowers and bushes.





MOUNTAINS, VOLCANOES AND EARTHQUAKES



Mountains

Fold Mountains



Two plates push into each other (converge) and the plates start to push upwards.

Fault Block Mountains



Two plates converge but rather than the pressure pushing the mountain upwards, a section breaks at weak points and that entire section is forced upwards.

Dome Mountains



Magma from the mantle pushes its way up through the crust without erupting at the surface. It then pushes the layers of rock upwards. The magma cools and becomes solid rock.

Volcanoes

Formation



Volcanoes generally form on the boundaries of the tectonic plates. Tectonic plates can move apart from each other (diverge) leaving a space for magma to erupt. If plates converge, one plate is forced underneath the other, leaving space for magma to spill out.

Ring of Fire



The Ring of Fire is a major area around the Pacific Ocean where many earthquakes and volcanic eruptions occur. It is a large 40,000km horseshoe shape with 452 different volcanoes along it!

Earthquakes

Formation



When tectonic plates move parallel to each other it causes friction that sticks them together. When they get unstuck, it can cause a violent jolt which causes an earthquake.

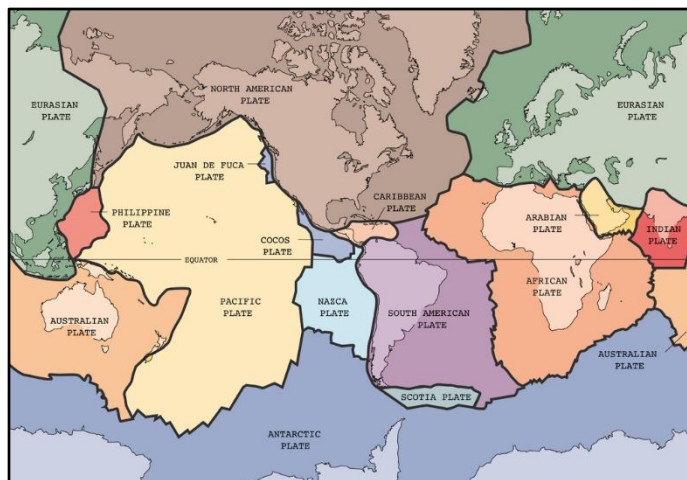
Magnitudes



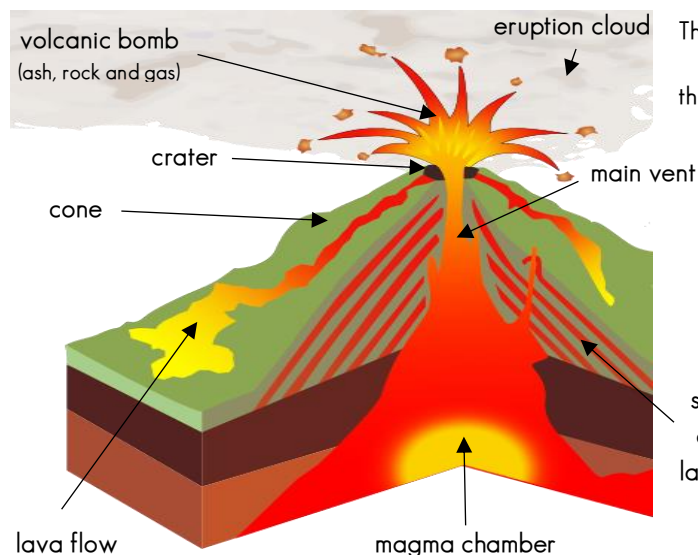
Shockwaves spread out from the epicentre (the strongest point of the earthquake). Magnitude, measured on a Richter scale, measures how strong an earthquake is. 1 is a small tremor and 9 is catastrophic!

Plate Tectonics

The part of the land that is moving in the Earth's crust is called the lithosphere. The lithosphere is made up of the Earth's crust and a part of the upper mantle. It moves in big chunks of land called tectonic plates. Some of these plates are huge and cover entire continents. They are around 62 miles thick and the movement of these help with the creation of mountains, volcanoes and earthquakes. They move between 1cm-10cm per year.

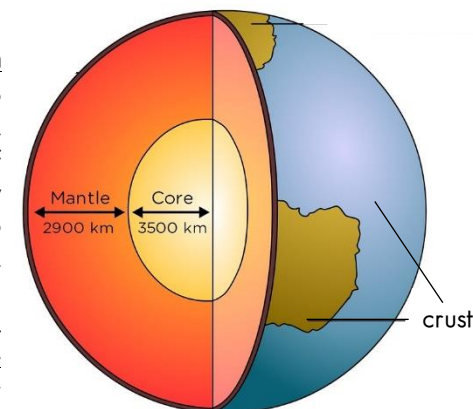


Inside a Volcano



Inside Earth

Earth is made up of three sections. The crust consists of solid rock. Below this is the mantle, so hot that the rock has melted and flows like liquid. Finally, the core which is a hotter ball of iron and nickel.



TALLEST MOUNTAINS



Mount Everest (Nepal/China)	K2 (Pakistan)	Kangchenjunga (Nepal)
8848m	8611m	8586m

Layers of the Rainforests

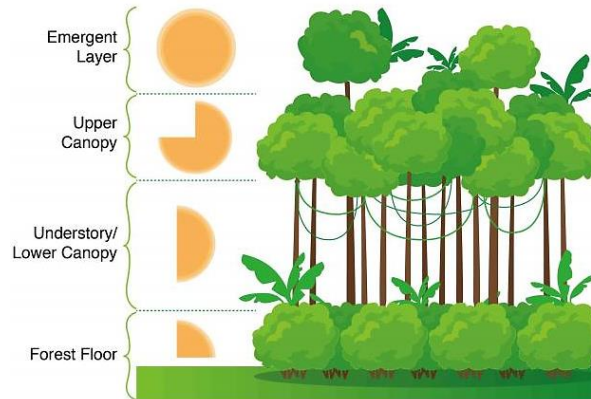
Emergent Layer 	This layer receives the most sunlight and plenty of rain. It is very windy here and trees can rise to 70m in height. There are plenty of animals such as birds and monkeys in this layer (e.g. scarlet macaws, harpy eagles, canary-winged parakeets, morpho butterflies and capuchin/squirrel monkeys).
Upper Canopy 	This layer still gets plenty of sunlight and rain but it is less windy. Wide leaves and thicker branches create a roof which stops light getting to lower layers. It is home to a range of wildlife (e.g. toucans, sloths, howler monkeys, iguanas and tree snakes).
Understory / Lower Canopy 	This layer only gets a small amount of light and is a damp and warm environment filled with smaller shrubs and trees which provide shelter and food for other animals (e.g. tree frogs, jaguars and the praying mantis).
Forest Floor 	This layer is dark, damp and very warm with virtually no sunlight reaching the floor. Leaves fall to the floor and start to rot. It is filled with rodents, insects and insect-eating animals (e.g. click beetles, worms, giant centipedes, giant anteaters and leaf-cutter ants).

Deforestation

Logging 	Trees are cut down to sell and make furniture with. They are also turned into charcoal. Huge areas of forest are cut down in one go. Roads are created which causes even more damage.
Cattle Ranching 	Forests are being burned down to make way for cattle farming, supplying beef to the rest of the world. Soil soon becomes dry and cattle farmers have to move on leaving a trail of destruction behind.
Mining and Oil Companies 	The demand for minerals and metals such as oil, aluminium, copper, gold and diamonds mean that rainforests are destroyed to access the ground below. Chemicals used can often end up in rivers, polluting water supplies.
Dams 	Large dams are used to help with the creation of electricity. This is seen as 'clean' energy but has resulted in the flooding of large areas of rainforest.

RAINFORESTS

Rainforests are a kind of forest habitat that can be found in warm places. They are full of tall trees and leafy plants. It is called a 'rainforest' because it also gets a lot of rain every year, helping all the plants grow.



Indigenous People

The way of life for indigenous people in rainforests has gone on uninterrupted for centuries, but it is now under threat because of the invasion of the rainforest by outsiders - logging companies, mining operations and ranchers looking to make a profit.

Key Vocabulary

ecosystem	all of the living and non-living things in an area
habitat	the place where a living thing makes its home
camouflage	animals hide themselves by blending into its surroundings
climate	weather and temperature usually found in a particular area
carbon dioxide	gas released when fuel is burned and when animals and humans breathe / plants use up carbon dioxide
oxygen	gas released by plants / breathed in by animals and humans
monsoon	wind that changes direction with the seasons
temperate	a climate with warm summers and cool summers
humid	having a high level of moisture in the air
equatorial	warm rainforests growing near the equator
tropical	tropics are warm all year around and rainforests can grow
indigenous	a living person or thing that belongs naturally to an area
extinct	an animal or plant species that has died out completely
vegetation	the plant life growing in a certain area
liana	rope-like plants that grow up trees

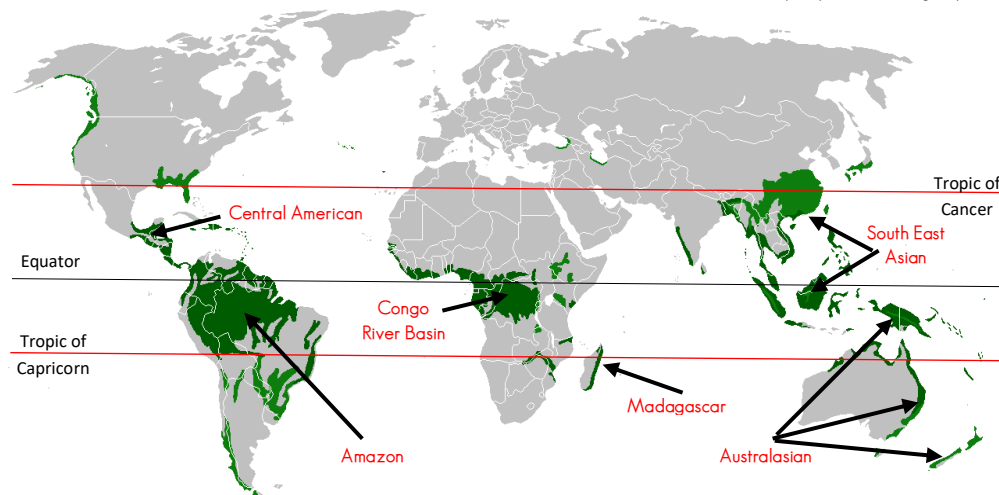
The Loss of the Rainforests

Half the world's rainforests have been destroyed in a century and at this rate you might even see them vanish altogether in your lifetime! More than 20 percent of the world oxygen is produced in the Amazon Rainforest. Deforestation is in fact considered the second major cause of climate change, responsible for up to 25% of global carbon dioxide emissions.

FACT BOX

Every year about 18million hectares of forest - an area the size of England and Wales - is cleared!

https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/8/8d/Rain_forest_location_map.png



Where in the World?

Rainforest habitats are forests located around the tropics, which is a zone around the equator, and are mainly found in Africa, Asia, Australia, Central America and South America. The largest rainforest habitat in the world is the Amazon rainforest in South America. Temperate rainforests are not as warm so there aren't as many plants. These are located along the northwest coast of North America, and in parts of Chile, New Zealand and Australia.



River Journey

Source 	The start of a river is its source. It is where it begins its journey. This could be a spring on a hillside, a mountain, a lake, or a bog or marsh. A river may have more than one source.
Waterfall 	An area where water flows over a vertical drop or a series of steep drops in the course of a river. Soft rock is eroded by water which leaves a hard rock ledge from which the water falls.
Meanders 	A curve in a river which forms a snake-like pattern. The river erodes sediment on the outside of the curves and drops it on the inside of curves due to water moving fastest on the outside of a turn.
Mouth 	The end of a river where it flows into the sea, another river or a lake is known as the mouth of the river. Much of the river's gravel, sand, silt and clay are deposited here.
Delta 	A wide muddy or sandy area where some rivers meet the sea at a very slow speed, or often in still/stagnant water. The river slows and drops all the sediment that it was carrying, creating a wide, marshy area.

River Management

Drinking Water 	Rivers, lakes or reservoirs may sometimes look clean but they are often filled with bacteria which can make you sick. It is therefore treated to make sure it meets safe drinking standards before being pumped to homes.
Sampling and Research 	Water sampling is the process of taking a water for testing. It is also used to test the health of the river and to find out if pollution, such as chemical from farming, are present.
Dams 	A dam is a barrier that stops or restricts the flow of water or underground streams. Reservoirs created by dams not only prevent floods but also provide water for activities such as irrigation, drinking water and industrial use.

RIVERS

A river is the path that water takes as it flows along a channel downhill with banks on both sides and a bed at the bottom. If there is lots of rain, snow or melting ice, rivers often overflow beyond the top of their banks and begin to flow onto floodplains at either side.



Image by Hel-Hama: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:River_Nile_mao.svg - 2013

Key Vocabulary

channel	a path of a narrow body of water where water flows
estuary	mouth of a large river, where the tide meets the stream
gorge	narrow valley with steep, rocky walls through hills/mountains
River Severn	Longest river in the U.K. (354km) through the city of Bristol
River Thames	346km long river running through the city of London
canal	man-made water channels for flow, vehicles and irrigation
basin	land drained by a river and its tributaries
floodplain	flat area around a river that often gets flooded
irrigation	supply of water to land or crops to help growth
bank	the land at the side of the river
weir	low dam built across a river to raise the level of water
bridge	structure built to allow people to cross a river
pumping station	facilities including pumps and equipment for pumping water from one place to another, supplying water to canals, removing sewage to processing sites and to drain land.
tributary	smaller river which joins onto the main channel of a river

The Nile

The Nile begins as two rivers. The White Nile comes from Lake Victoria in Uganda and the Blue Nile starts in the Ethiopian Highlands. They join together in Sudan to form one river. The River Nile brings water to the Sahara Desert and, for thousands of years, it has been used to water crops (irrigation). Rivers were also important trade routes. It eventually reaches the sea but due to the heat, much of it evaporates before it gets there. It also splits into many smaller rivers forming a delta.

Erosion and Deposition

Erosion is when materials, like soil or rocks, are moved by water. All these materials are called sediments. Deposition is when those sediments are deposited, or dropped off, in a different place. When rivers are flowing fast, they knock bits of earth from the banks and bed of the river (its sides and bottom) and carry it downstream with them.

WORLD'S LONGEST RIVERS

	Nile - 6695km (Africa)
	Amazon - 6516km (South America)
	Yangtze - 6380km (Asia)
	Mississippi/Missouri - 5969km (North America.)
	Murray/Darling - 3672km (Australia)





CLIMATE There are 4 main climate zones which include tropical, cold, dry and temperate. The countries which are on the Earth's equator (Brazil, Ecuador and Colombia) are humid and wet. Summers are very hot and winters are mild/warm.

LONGEST RIVERS



Amazon (Brazil) - 6400km

Paraná (Brazil/Paraguay) - 4880km

Madeira (Brazil) - 3380km

TALLEST MOUNTAINS



Aconcagua (Argentina) 6962m
Ojos del Salado (Chile) 6893m
Monte Pissis (Argentina) 6793m

LARGEST POPULATIONS

Brazil
(212 million people)



Colombia
(48 million people)



Argentina
(43 million people)



SOUTH AMERICA

Physical Features

Amazon Rainforest



This is the world's largest rainforest, taking up 5.5million km² and most of north-western Brazil, extending into Colombia, Peru and other countries. It is famous for its biodiversity.

The Andes



The Andes are the longest mountain range in the world forming a continuous highland in the west, passing through 7 countries from Venezuela in the north to Chile and Argentina in the south.

Galapagos Islands



Part of the Republic of Ecuador, this volcanic archipelago are known for their many species of plants and animals studied by Charles Darwin which contributed to his theory of evolution.

Lake Titicaca



A large, deep lake in the Andes on the border of Peru and Bolivia. Once inhabited by the Incas between 1200A.D. and 1400A.D., they have even found an underwater temple here.

Human Features

Deforestation



Industrial-scale cattle ranching, soybean production and logging for wood (e.g. mahogany) for the world market means the Amazon has lost 20% off its trees in the last 40 years at a rate of 20,000km² per year.

Machu Picchu



Located in southern Peru, on a 2430m high mountain ridge, archaeologists believe it was constructed as an estate for an Inca emperor. Built around 1450A.D., it could home up to 750 people, mostly working as servants to the emperor and keeping llamas and alpacas.

Colonisation



In 1498 Christopher Columbus, on his third voyage to the Americas, landed in Venezuela. Portuguese and Spanish ships arrived, began to claim the land as their own, introducing western diseases, and contributed to the rapid decline of the native populations.



FACT BOX

Spanish is the main language in South American countries, only in Brazil people speak Portuguese. 90% are Catholic.

Key Vocabulary

archipelago	sea or stretch of water having many islands
Atlantic Ocean	covers 20% of the Earth's surface and lies between the Americas and Europe/Africa
Atacama Desert	West of the Andes and one of the driest places on Earth
biodiversity	the variety of plant and animal life
canopy	uppermost branches of trees in a rainforest
El Nino	an event every 2-5 years where the Pacific Ocean warms, causing more rain in the Americas
evolution	idea that animals adapt and humans developed from apes
landlocked	Countries surrounded by only land (e.g. Paraguay)
mining	Chile has the largest open pit and underground mines in the world, for mining copper and iron
native	original inhabitants of an area
Pacific Ocean	covers 30% of the Earth's surface and is the largest, deepest ocean on the planet separating the Americas with Asia/Australasia
reforestation	the process of replanting an area with trees
Rio Carnival	annual festival held in the Brazilian capital of Rio de Janeiro before Lent (Christian religious observance)
temperate	non-extreme temperatures, neither too hot or cold
tropical	wet and dry seasons, frost-free with high temperatures

FAUNA (ANIMALS)



Examples: sloths, jaguars, caiman, tapirs, llamas, parrots and capuchins (also - toucans, giant anteaters and capybaras).

FLORA (PLANTS)



Rubber tree orchids Kapok tree cacao tree coffee plant

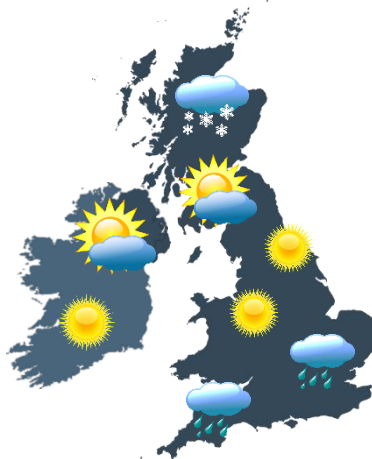
The 5 Climate Types

Desert 	Rocky or sandy surfaces in desert climates hold very little water and evaporate the little rainfall they receive. Towns/villages tend to develop near to a river or an oasis.
Tropical 	Hot and humid weather causes plenty of rainfall. Rainforests develop and are home to a diverse range of animals and birds. People live in cities and towns by rainforests and many natives live inside.
Polar 	Temperatures below 0°C causes snow and ice to form. Climates are dry with very little rainfall. It is harder to live in these extreme environments.
Temperate and Continental 	Temperate and continental climates (like that in the U.K.) have warm summers and cold winters. These climates make growing crops and living easier.

Extreme Weather

Flooding 	Heavy rain or high tides can cause serious floods. Water rises and has nowhere to go and so builds up. This can destroy crops or whole villages and towns.
Wildfires 	Fires often start in hot, dry climates. Sometimes this can be purposefully or accidentally done by humans. They can also occur naturally, destroying large areas of land and sometimes people's homes.
Hurricanes 	A hurricane is a large spinning storm that forms over the Atlantic Ocean and north-eastern Pacific Ocean. They have winds of at least 74 miles per hour.
Drought 	Droughts are water shortages due to a lack of rain, surface water or ground water. A drought can last for months or years and cause crops to fail and drinking water to become harder to find.

THE WEATHER



Weather Forecasts

Most of us are interested in what the weather will be like. A forecast tells us what it might be like in the next few hours or weeks.

Weather forecasts can be made by aircraft, weather balloons, satellites, ships and land stations. They all send information back to a weather centre, such as the Met Office and fed into powerful computers.

Human Influences

ACID RAIN - Wind carrying nitrogen and sulphur pollution can fall to the ground as rain, killing trees and poisoning lakes.

OZONE HOLE - Over winter, dangerous gases build up in the air over Antarctica. When the gases react with sunlight, they can destroy parts of the ozone layer which protects the Earth from harmful sun rays.

SMOG - Fumes from traffic and industry create a thick, yellow fog causing breathing difficulties.

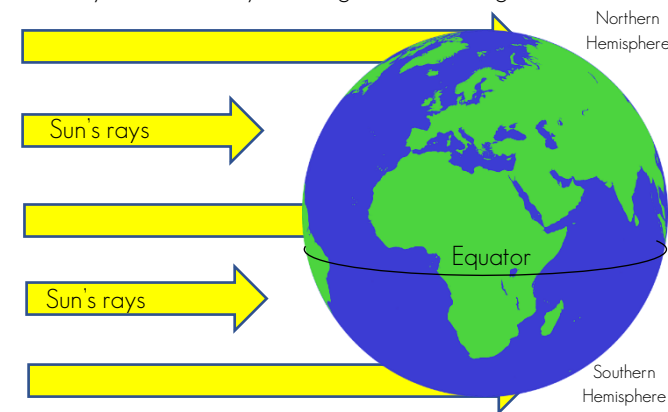
GLOBAL WARMING - Carbon dioxide from pollution has increased over many years which traps heat from the sun making global temperatures rise.

Key Vocabulary

blizzard	a snowstorm with very high winds
climate	the pattern of weather over a number of years
diverse	showing a great deal of variety
equator	an imaginary line through Earth separating the northern and southern hemispheres
forecast	to estimate or predict a future event or trend
gale	a very strong wind just under the speed of a hurricane
hail	hard, frozen rain which fall in showers
humid	high level of water vapour in the atmosphere
micro-climate	local set of weather conditions (mountain/valley/village)
oasis	natural spring in a desert where water can be found
sandstorm	a storm in a desert with high winds carrying sand
temperature	the degree of heat measured in Celsius
tornado	spinning column of air connecting the surface of the Earth to a cloud causing destruction in its path
typhoon	tropical storm in the Indian or western Pacific Ocean
whirlpool	spinning mass of water in the ocean

Hot and Cold Climates

At the equator, the sun rises high in the sky and the sun's rays fall straight on the Earth to heat it up. At the poles, the sun is always low in the sky meaning the air never gets warm.



In the U.K. there are 4 seasons: *spring, summer, autumn and winter*. Other parts of the world have different patterns of seasons which affect how people live and the crops they can grow.

