

Rainforest Facts



Some important things to remember about our Earth's beautiful rainforests.



What is a rainforest?



A rainforest is a very thick forest filled with plants and trees that grow well in a very wet climate. There are so many trees that the bottom of the forest sees very little sunlight. Depending on its location the average yearly rainfall in rainforests is usually 68-98 inches (1750-2500 mm).

All rainforests are endangered. This means they are disappearing. We must save them. Learn more about rainforests by watching this video at our rainforest partner's web site:

<http://www.supernaturaladventures.com/> You can learn about the Kids for Saving Earth Rainforest here: <http://kidsforsavingearth.org/programs/rainforest.htm>

Additional Resources

The Prince's Rainforest Project:

<http://schools.rainforestsos.org/kids>

Sounds of the rainforest:

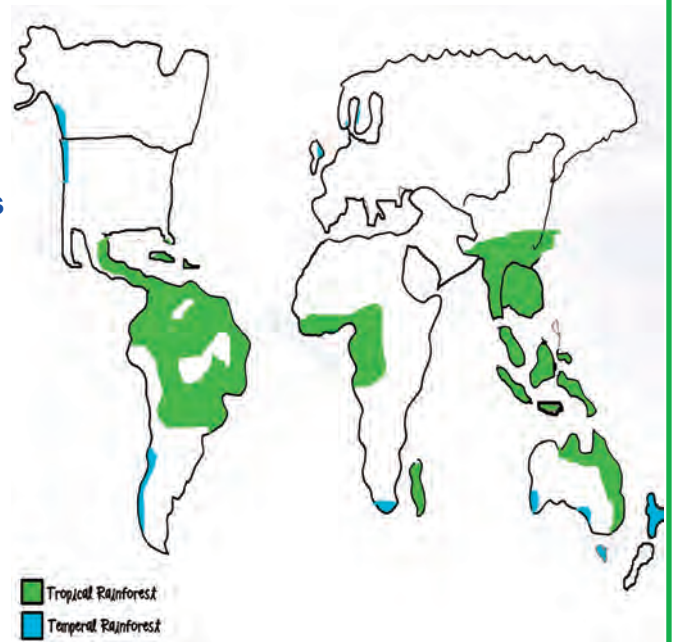
<http://schools.rainforestsos.org/free-resources/rainforest-multimedia/rainforest-sounds>

Where are rainforests located?



Tropical rainforests are warm and near the equator and in Central and South America, West Africa, Southeast Asia and the Pacific Islands.

Other rainforests are in cool temperate climates near the North Pacific coast of North America as well as in Chile, Japan, the United Kingdom, Southern Australia, New Zealand, Tasmania and more. The Kids for Saving Earth Rainforest is located in Costa Rica. You can help protect it. [Learn how by clicking here.](#)



Why are rainforests disappearing?



Each year millions of acres of rainforests are disappearing. Every second, an area the size of a football field disappears. That's over 31 million football fields of rainforest each year.

*The trees are being cut down for wood for construction, furniture and burning.

*The rainforests are being cleared for farming and cattle grazing.

*Building roads takes down rainforest as well.



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We must protect rainforests because:

- *Rainforests are homes to tribal communities.
- *Rainforests supply food and water for people who live in and around them.
- *Many important plants, animals and insects, live in rainforests.
- *Rainforests help regulate the Earth's climate. They remove huge amounts of carbon dioxide from the air and release oxygen for us to breathe.
- *Vital medicines and foods are found in the rainforests.
- *The plants of the rainforests protect against land erosion, flooding and pollution.
- *Rainforest tourism helps the local economies.



How can we help protect the rainforests?



- *Tell your parents and friends why rainforests are important.
- ***Write letters** to school kids who live near rainforests. **We'll send them.**
- *Don't buy wood products unless they are "FSC-certified". It means the wood comes from sustainably managed forests.
- *Only use recycled paper.
- *Support the Kids for **Saving Earth Rainforest** program that creates educational programs for students worldwide and in and near the rainforests in Costa Rica. KSE helps buy rainforest land and supports research and land protection.
- *Don't eat any foods with palm oil. Rainforests are cut down to grow palm oil. It's high in saturated fats so it's not good for you anyway!

Important rainforests vocabulary

Emergent Layer: The very top of the forest with very tall trees (as tall as 200 ft).

Canopy Layer: The leaves just below the emergent layer form an umbrella over the rainforest and are full of birds, insects and animals.

Understorey Layer: The area between the canopy and the forest floor is filled with smaller trees and plants as well as animals. It gets very little sun.

Forest Floor: This most humid part of the forest has rich soil because of the rotting plants. It's a perfect home for insects and animals. It rarely sees sunlight.

More Info

Classroom Assignment



Draw your favorite rainforest plant or animal species. Use bright colors. Scan them and email them to kse@kidsforsavingearth.org so that we can make an online rainforest bulletin board. On a bulletin board in your classroom post the artwork to create your own rainforest. If you would like to be E-Pals with Rainforest schools [click here](#).

