

Amazon



Recommended year group: Year 1

Theme focus: Geography

Suggested term: Summer

Theme introduction

Amazon is a theme that is focused on learning about the rainforests of South America. Learning in this theme is focused on geography but also includes music, art and D&T. In this theme, pupils will look at the geographical features of Brazil and its geographical position on the continent of South America. Pupils will learn about what the rainforests are like, and which creatures and humans have made it their home. They will also investigate the different sounds of the rainforest and make their own waterproof shelters. Finally, pupils will learn about how deforestation is affecting the rainforest and suggest ways in which they can help to support rainforests themselves.

Driving Question

How can we capture the atmosphere of the rainforest?

Switch on Science Unit

Plants and animals where we live

Switch on Computing Unit

We are treasure hunters

Linked Reading Texts

One day on our blue planet by Ella Bailey

National Geographic – Little Big Book of Rainforests
by Moira Rose Donaghue

30 Fascinating Topics for Rainforest Fanatics explained in half a minute (Kids 30 Seconds) by Jen Green

Writing Outcomes

Non-chronological reports

Information text about rainforests / South America

Recount /Diary entries

Show understanding of how a character is feeling at a carnival.

Curriculum Coverage

Geography – Location and maps, similarities and differences, environment, physical geography, human geography

Music: Improvise and compose, Instruments

Art – Painting, colour, other techniques, 3D sculpture

DT – Technical knowledge: joining and structure

Science – plants

Excite

Let pupil immerse themselves in the music of the rainforest.

Have a range of rainforest animals around the room that the pupils can talk about and discuss.

Explore

There are fourteen explore sessions:

Explore 1: Where is South America?

Explore 2: Geographical features of Brazil

Explore 3: Human and physical features of a place

Explore 4: The Rio Carnival

Explore 5: The Amazon River

Explore 6: What is a rainforest?

Explore 7: Rainforest habitats

Explore 8: Shelters

Explore 9: Henri Rousseau

Explore 10: Plants

Explore 11: Trees

Explore 12: Make a model rainforest

Explore 13: Sounds of the rainforest

Explore 14: Deforestation

Theme essential vocabulary:

country, deciduous, deforestation, evergreen, habitat, plant, rainforest, shelter, soundscape, tree

Essential knowledge/concepts

1. Brazil is a country in South America.
2. The capital city of Brazil is called Brasilia.
3. Human geographical features are features that are made by humans, such as bridges.
4. Physical geographical features are features that would be around even if humans were not, for example hill, rivers and mountains.
5. The Amazon River flows through the rainforests in Brazil.
6. The structure of a rainforest has four sections: the forest floor, the understory, the canopy and the emergent layer.
7. Rainforests are places where it is very warm, and it rains a lot.
8. The Yanomami Tribe live in the Amazon Rainforest near the Amazon River.
9. Henri Rousseau was a French painter who painted scenes of jungles and rainforests.
10. Trees can either be evergreen or deciduous.
11. The sounds of the rainforest can have a relaxing effect on humans.
12. Deforestation is when trees are cut down so that the land can be used for something else.
13. Humans are causing deforestation to many of the rainforest areas around the world.

Excel

The key assessment outcomes of this unit are:

Explore 3: Human and physical features of a place

Explore 6: What is a rainforest?

Explore 10: Plants

Explore 14: Deforestation

Exhibit

Pupils put on a short presentation about what they have learned about the rainforest. They can also create a gallery of their artwork.

Possible wider experiences:

Visit a hot house to understand what a tropical climate might feel like. This could be places such as:

- [The National Botanic Garden of Wales](#)
- [Palm House, Kew Gardens, London](#)
- [Belfast Botanical Gardens](#)
- [Birmingham Botanical Gardens](#)
- [The Eden Project, Cornwall](#)

Flipped learning opportunities

Listen to the traditional music from Brazil – Samba.

Samba was originally composed for the workers in Brazil, but it has since become part of the Brazilian culture.

[Brazilian samba music](#)

Link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4_58J87bAW4

Family learning suggestion

Pupils could research some different rainforest animals at home. The animals may include the mountain gorilla, jaguar, tapir and giant anteater.

Cultural awareness

Key piece of music

The Girl from Ipanema by Antônio Carlos Jobim

Chorus Number 1 by Heitor Villa-Lobos

Key piece of art

The Flower Carrier by Diego Rivera

Key poem

Carnival Jumbie from *Dancing in the Rain* by John Lyons

