

# Geography Year 6 Autumn 1 — South America -Amazon

## Key knowledge to know and use

South America is the fourth largest continent in the world. It is made up of 12 independent countries: Colombia, Bolivia, Argentina, Chile, Peru, Uruguay, Brazil, Paraguay, Venezuela, Guyana, Suriname, and Ecuador.

The Amazon rainforest is located in South America and it spans 8 countries and one overseas territory.. More than 60% of the Amazon rainforest is located in Brazil.

The River Amazon runs through the rainforest. It is the world's largest river by water volume. The river is 6400km long. It begins in the Andes and end at the Atlantic Ocean.

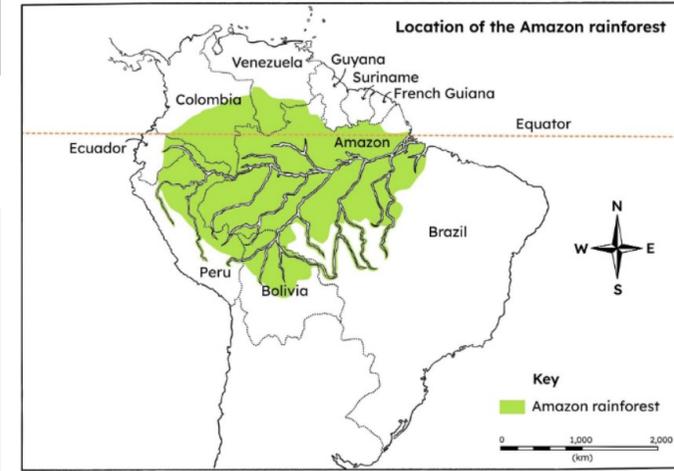
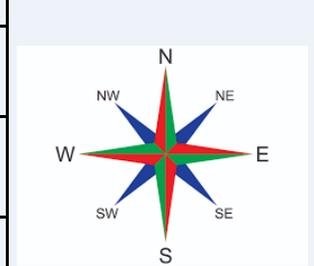
Most people live in a few cities located along the Amazon river and major rivers in the region. Manaus in north western Brazil is the largest city in the Amazon region.

Indigenous groups have been living in the Amazon rainforest for thousands of years and there are approximately 350 indigenous ethnic groups living in the Amazon region.

Rainforest products are important exports. Food products grown in rainforests include cacao, coffee, bananas, brazil nuts, pineapples and pepper. Rubber and wood are also exported.

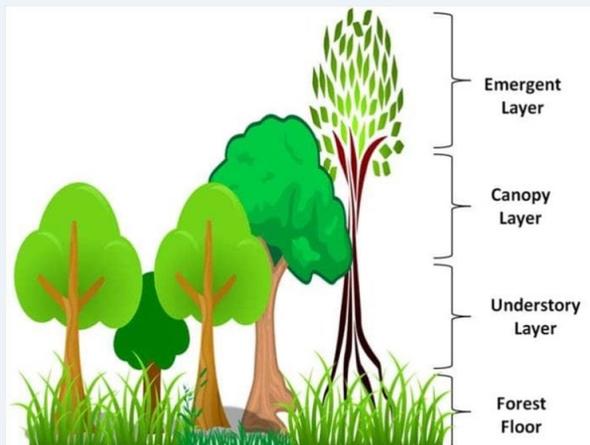
Tropical rainforests have four layers: emergent, canopy, understory, forest floor.

Deforestation is occurring in the Amazon rainforest due to the demand for timber and the conversion to farm land. When trees are cut down or burned, carbon stored in the trees is released as carbon dioxide into the atmosphere.



## Key vocabulary to know and use in your learning

Word	Definition
biome	A large area of the Earth's surface defined by the types of animals and plants living there e.g. tropical rainforest
tropical rainforests	Rainforests are a type of biome and are areas of dense forest found close to the Equator where it is warm and there are high levels of rainfall.
emergent layer	The name given to the tops of trees that rise above the rainforest canopy — it is exposed to sunlight here and only the strongest and tallest plants reach this level.
canopy	Overlapping branches and leaves of rainforest trees. Most plant and animal life is found here and it may be over 100 feet (30 m) above the ground.
understory	The layer of plants that grow beneath the canopy. It is warm and shaded.
forest floor	The floor beneath the forest trees— it is a warm, dark, damp place; home to ferns, fungi and moss.
deforestation	The removal of a forest from land that is then converted to non-forest use.



20% of the Amazon rainforest has been lost to deforestation.