






Key Vocabulary	
Equator	An imaginary line in the middle of the earth that separates the earth into its Northern and Southern Hemispheres.
Deforestation	The destruction or removal of trees to make room for something else such as farm land.
Forest floor	The lowest layer of the rainforest. It is dark, hot and damp, with only 2% of the sunlight reaching it through the thick canopy.
Understory	The layer of the rainforest underneath the canopy. It is hot and damp. Bushes and young trees grow here.
Canopy	The canopy, which may be over 100 feet (30 m) above the ground, is made up of the overlapping branches and leaves of rainforest trees.
Emergent	The emergent layer is the name given to the tops of trees that poke up above the rainforest canopy. It is very sunny here and only the strongest and tallest plants reach this level.
habitat	The natural environment where an animal or plant normally lives.
Biome	A large area inhabited by plants and animals that live together e.g. rainforest, desert.
Tribe	A group of people who live together, sharing the same language, culture, and history.
Indigenous	Belonging to the country in which they are found, rather than being brought there from another country.
Agriculture	The science of farming and the methods that are used to raise and look after crops and animals.

Rainforest Animals		
Macaw	Long tailed, colourful type of parrot.	
Tapir	Similar in shape to a pig. Tapirs live in South America near water and have long snouts.	
Poison Dart Frog	Colourful frog with toxins in their skin. The skin is brightly coloured to keep predators away.	
Jaguar	The biggest predator in the Amazon Rainforest. Usually a lone, nocturnal hunter which leaps on its prey from above.	
Caiman	Type of alligator. Lie in shallow water and feed on land animals that come close to the water edge.	
Sloth	Moves very slowly through the trees, so not to attract attention. Very endangered	

South America

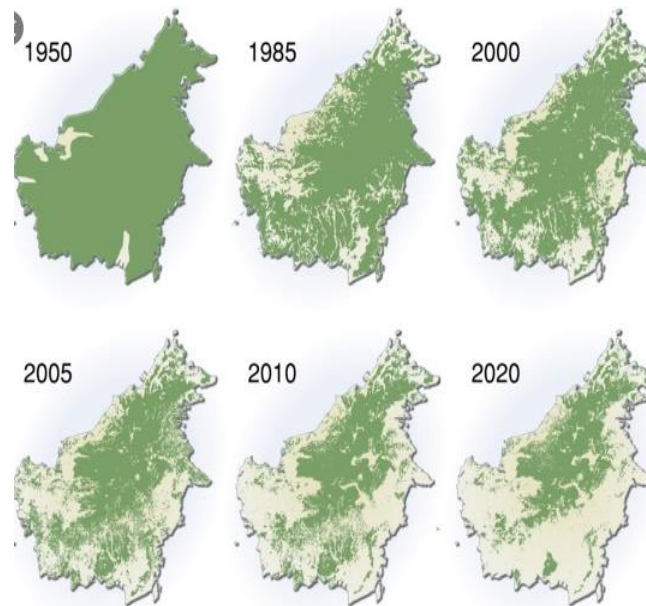


Reasons for Deforestation

Palm oil - produced in trees in the Amazon and used in many products such as salad dressings, washing powder and fuels.

Cattle ranches - There are around 10 million cattle in the Amazon region. Raised for consumption by humans.

Medicinal plants - Many of the medicines that we use today have ingredients in them that have been sourced from the rainforest.



The Amazon Rainforest produces more than 20% of the world's oxygen. It is being destroyed at a rate of 1 acre per second.