

Knowledge Organiser - Year 4—Geography: The Amazon

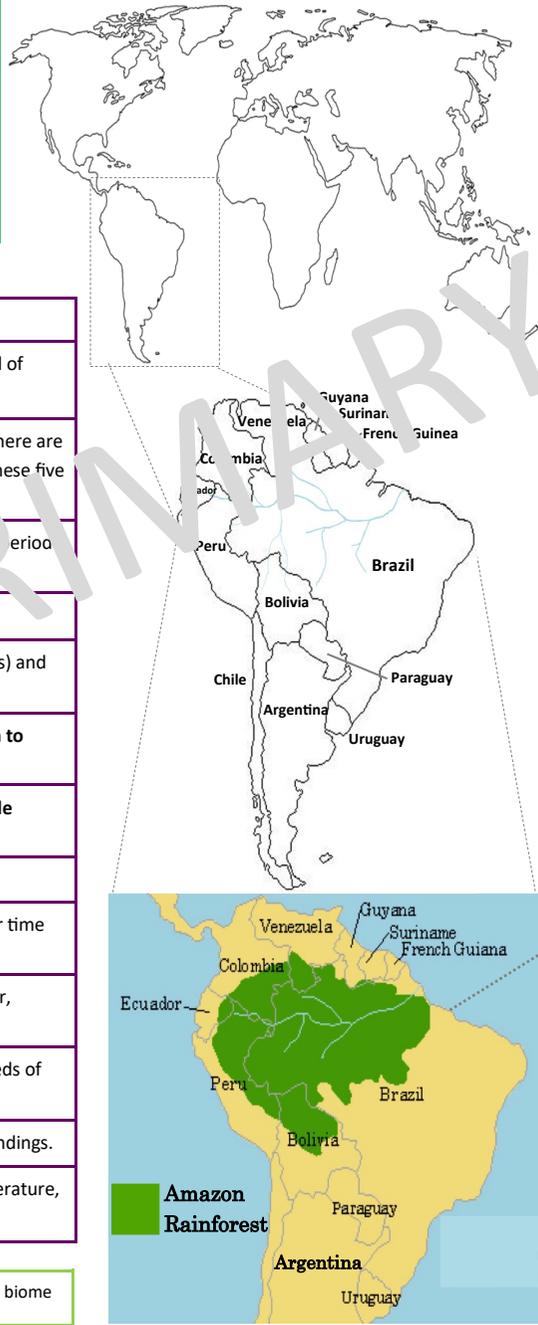
Key Question — Why is the Amazon rainforest biome unique and how is it under



Key Places

South America	Home to the Amazon Rainforest and one of the 7 continents.
Brazil	It contains 60% of the Amazon Rainforest .
Amazon Basin	The part of South America that is drained by the Amazon River and its many
Mantaro River	The official source of the River Amazon in Peru .
Atlantic Ocean	Second largest ocean in the world and covers approximately 20% of the Earth's surface. The Amazon River drains into the Atlantic Ocean.

Where in the world is it?



Key Vocabulary

Basin	The land drained by a river and its many tributaries.
Confluence	The meeting of two rivers.
Mouth	The end of the river where it meets the sea, or ocean.
Rainforest	A forest with tall trees, warm climates and lots of rain.
River	Large natural stream of water flowing in a channel to the sea, a lake, or another river.
Source	The beginning of the river.
Tributaries	Streams or small rivers that flow into a larger river.

Key Concepts

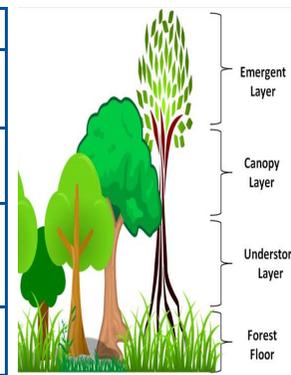
Agriculture	The growing and harvesting of crops and raising animals, or livestock.
Biodiversity	The variety of plant and animal life in the world or in a particular habitat, a high level of which is usually considered to be important and desirable.
Biome	A large region of Earth that has a certain climate and certain types of living things. There are 5 main types of biome, which are: Desert, Forest , Grassland, Tundra and Aquatic. These five types can be further divided by differences in seasons or animal and plant species.
Climate	The average measurements of temperature, wind, snow and rain over an extended period of time, which can be affected by human activity .
Deforestation	Large areas of forest that are cut away to create areas for farming or settlements.
Ecosystem	Describes the relationships between living organisms (plants, animals and organisms) and the non-living environment (weather, earth, sun, soil, climate and atmosphere).
Environment	The particular natural surroundings in which you live, exist, considered in relation to their physical characteristics or weather conditions .
Erosion	Where land is removed through removal of rock and soil due to natural or man made forces .
Habitat	The natural environment of an organism. A habitat lies within an eco-system .
Landscape	All the important features of the area you can see, which can constantly change over time due to human and physical factors .
Natural Resources	Something that is found in nature and can be used by people such as light, air, water, plants, animals, soil, stone, minerals and fossil fuels. These can be sold or traded .
Sustainability	To understand how to meet the needs of the present without compromising the needs of future generations by protecting the environment and resources .
Vegetation	Plants that can grow in a particular region and adapt to the climate and their surroundings.
Weather	The condition of the atmosphere in the area at a particular time, this includes temperature, rainfall and wind.

Causes of Deforestation

Cattle Ranching	The clearing of trees, rainforest vegetation and land for cows to graze. Cows often completely strip land of all vegetation.
Commercial Logging	Cutting down of established trees for the sale of timber especially, expensive tropical hardwoods such as teak.
Mining	Blasting away at river banks, clearing floodplain forests, and using heavy machinery to expose minerals such as gold, diamonds and copper.
Palm Oil Plantations	Clearing of trees to plant palms or extract palm oil from these palms which is used in a variety of products including shampoos, chocolate, cosmetics, ice cream and petrol.
Agriculture	Small and large scale farming especially the cultivation of soybeans that are used to produce biofuels.
Infrastructure	The building of roads, bridges and buildings to meet the needs of a growing population.



Layers	Description of rainforest layer
Emergent Layer	Consists of towering trees that protrude out of the rest of the plants in the area.
Canopy Layer	Contains overlapping tall trees that act as a roof over the rest of the organisms below them.
Understory	Consists of shrubs, herbaceous plants, ferns, climbing plants and young trees that are well adapted to receiving low sunlight.
Forest Floor	Darkest and most humid layer, it receives less than 2% of the total sunlight.



Rainforest Biome

High Rainfall	High temperatures between 28—32°C	Very Humid	Highest level of biodiversity of any biome
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