

Which factors link to today's learning?
Social / Economic / Environmental

GCSE Geography: The Living World – Tropical Rainforests Knowledge Organiser



Here are some key words from this topic. Can you add anymore?



The Big Picture

- What is an ecosystem?
- What are the interrelationships between components of ecosystems?
- What are the world biomes?
- What are Tropical Rainforests Like?
- How have plants and animals adapted to life in the TRF?
- Why is deforestation happening in the TRF?
- What are the impacts of deforestation?
- What can be done to save the tropical rainforests?



Key

- Tundra
- Coniferous forest
- Temperate deciduous forest
- Temperate grassland
- Mediterranean
- Desert
- Tropical rainforest
- Tropical grassland (savanna)
- Other biomes (e.g. polar, ice, mountains)

The climate in an area determines what type of ecosystem forms.

Therefore, different parts of the world have different ecosystems because they have different climates.

Epping Forest Nutrient Cycle

biomass (n) – living organisms i.e. the plants and animals in the forest.

leaching (v) – the draining away of nutrients by rain flowing through the soil.

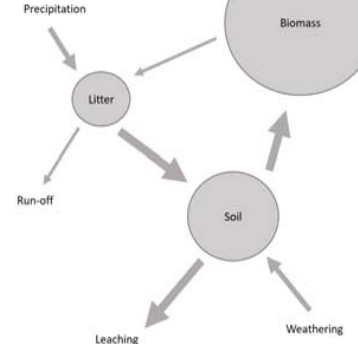
litter (n) – leaves and other parts of plants e.g. twigs, that have fallen to the floor of a forest.

precipitation (n) – rain, snow, hailstone etc.

run-off (n/v) – rainwater flowing over the surface, taking nutrients with it.

weathering (v) – the breakdown of rocks due to exposure to water or extremes in temperature.

Large store of biomass due to large number of trees.



- Malaysia is located in South-East Asia
- It is made up of Peninsular Malaysia and East Malaysia, which is part of the island of Borneo
- 67% of Malaysia is covered by the natural tropical rainforest vegetation

Malaysia: Impacts of deforestation - economic development

Economic Gains:

Development of land for farming, mining and energy will lead to jobs both directly (construction, farming) and indirectly (supply and support industries). Companies will pay taxes to the government as will workers - can be used to improve public services such as education and water supply. HEP will provide cheap and plentiful energy.

Economic Losses:

Plants that could bring huge medical benefits and high profits become extinct. Climate change could have economic costs as people have to adapt to living in warmer conditions and may destroy crops such as tea, fruit and flowers. Number of tourists could decrease as biodiversity decreases.

abiotic (adj)	relating to non-living things.
biotic (adj)	relating to living things.
ecosystem (n)	a community of plants and animals that interact with each other and their physical environment.
biome (n)	large ecosystems of the world characterised by sharing similar climates, vegetation, soil and wildlife.
biodiversity (n)	the variety of life in the world or a particular habitat
adaptation (n)	the evolutionary process whereby an organism becomes better able to live in its habitat or habitats.
deciduous (adj)	(of a tree or shrub) shedding its leaves annually.

CEIAG Link: For this topic we can make links to a variety of professions:

Ecologist
Planning Officer
Resource management
Arborist – you will learn more about this in your lesson

If you are interested in the above careers, don't forget you can do some research and speak to Mrs Ackroyd.

