

Forests are large areas of trees and other plants that can be found in many different parts of the world.

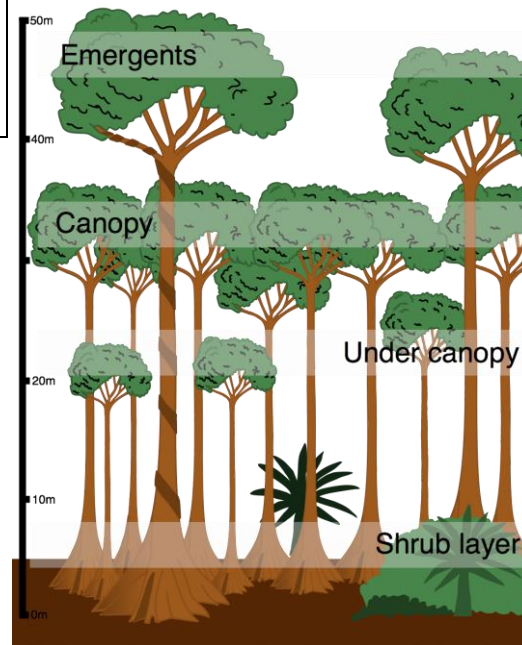


Temperate forests have weather which changes with the four seasons. They are found above or below the equator.

Tropical forests (often known as rainforests) are very warm and wet. They can be found near the equator. The weather in these forests stays mostly the same all year around.



Forests



Unfortunately, many forests are at risk from deforestation. This is when humans cut down trees for a number of reasons.



Tropical rainforests are split into four different layers: the emergent, the canopy, the under canopy and the shrub level. Each layer receives different amounts of sunlight and is home to different species of plants and animals.



Boreal forests are found in the far north of the world. They are in very cold areas with temperatures that are often sub-zero.



Climate change can also create dangers for forests such as wild fires, flooding, invasive species and diseases.



Key Vocabulary

Here is the vocabulary we will be using in our geography lessons:

- **Forest:** A large area covered with trees and other plants.
- **Trees:** Tall plants with trunks, branches, and leaves.
- **Animals:** Living creatures like birds, mammals, and insects found in forests.
- **Plants:** Living things that grow in the ground (flowers, bushes, and grasses).
- **Vegetation:** All the plants and trees in an area.
- **Species (invasive):** Plants or animals that don't naturally belong in a place and can harm the environment.
- **Tropical forest:** A warm, wet forest found near the equator.
- **Temperate forest:** A forest found in places with cool winters and warm summers.
- **Boreal forest:** A cold forest found in northern parts of the world.
- **Emergent layer:** The tallest trees in a forest that rise above the rest.
- **Canopy:** The thick layer of leaves and branches formed by the tops of trees.
- **Under canopy:** The layer of smaller trees and plants under the canopy.
- **Shrub layer:** The lowest layer of small bushes and plants in a forest.
- **Deforestation:** The cutting down of trees in a forest.
- **Climate change:** Long-term changes in weather patterns caused by human activity.
- **Fire:** The burning of trees and plants, often destroying parts of the forest.
- **Wildfire:** A large, uncontrolled fire that spreads through a forest.
- **Flood:** When water overflows onto normally dry land, sometimes in forests.
- **Disease:** Illnesses that can harm plants, animals, or trees in a forest.