

Fascinating Facts About Rainforests!



People and Planet

Tropical rainforests are tall, dense jungles, bursting with **biodiversity** (plant and animal life). They're found in five main places around the world – **Africa, Asia, Australia, Central America and South America**. Warm, humid and – yep, you guessed it – wet, these amazing places can get between **80-400 inches of rainfall** a year – wow!

Warm temperatures, rich soil, moist conditions and thick plant cover make rainforests the perfect environment for wildlife to flourish! In fact, these awesome **ecosystems** are home to more than **half of all plant and animal species** on earth – from ginormous **flowers** and mischievous **monkeys**, to super **sloths** and beautiful **big cats**!

Rainforests aren't just home to amazing animals, they're home to hundreds of **indigenous people**, too. It's thought that some have never had contact with the **outside world**!

FUN FACT!
Rainforests play an important role in limiting climate change! Their rich vegetation takes carbon dioxide (a greenhouse gas) out of the air and releases oxygen.



The name jaguar means 'he who kills with one leap'!



Rainforests are bursting with color!

FUN FACT!

More than 80% of the world's food has origins in the Amazon rainforest!



Squirrel monkeys make around 25-30 different calls!



It can take sloths around 30 days to digest a single leaf!

Did you know?

- The world's biggest rainforest, the **Amazon**, spans **eight South American** countries, while the world's smallest rainforest, **Bukit Nanas Forest** in **Malaysia**, is about the same size as **Alcatraz Island**!
- Around **25% of the world's medicines** are made from plants found in the Amazon rainforest!
- It can take a falling raindrop **10 minutes** to travel from the rainforest's **thick canopy** to the **forest floor**!

Sadly, rainforests are being lost to **deforestation** – meaning they're cut down for **timber** or to make way for **roads and farming**. The good news is that charities, conservation groups and people around the world are working to protect these incredible places, and you can help, too!



Spread the word!

Tell your friends and family why rainforests are important.



Check the label!

Avoid products containing palm oil – one of the biggest reasons for deforestation.



Give back!

Support a rainforest charity – host a bake sale or dress up for sponsorship!