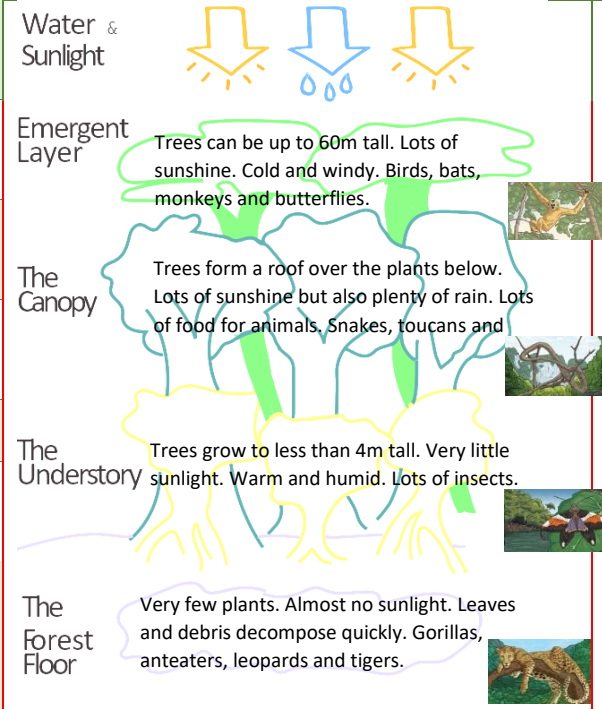


Geography	Rainforests	Year 4
Vocabulary	Layers	Deforestation

climate	The average weather conditions over a long period of time.
deforestation	The cutting down and clearing of forests.
equator	An imaginary circle running round the centre of the earth.
humid	Feeling very damp due to water vapour in the air.
Native tribes	The original settlers of an area.
species	A group of similar animals or plants.
tropical	Somewhere that is warm all year round, but which has rainy seasons.

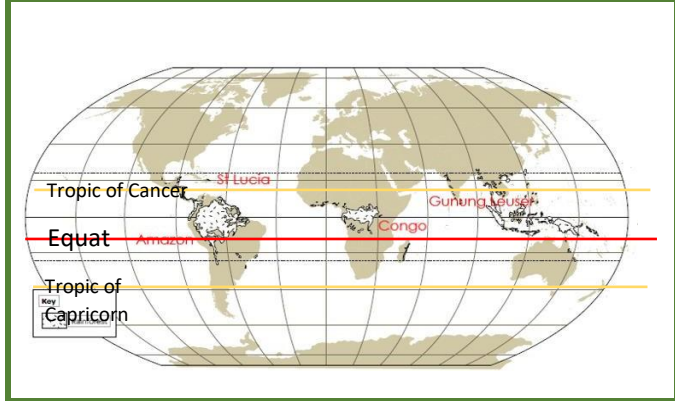


Trees are cut down:

- To create fields for farming cattle and growing crops,
- to produce timber and wood pulp to make furniture and paper,
- to create space for housing.

Positive Impacts	Negative Impacts
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jobs are created in logging and transporting timber and manufacturing products. Selling land raises money for local people. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> People's homes are destroyed. Animals and plants may become extinct through habitat loss. Plants that may have been useful could be lost.

Where in the World?	Key Facts
---------------------	-----------



Tropical rainforests are found north and south of the Equator between the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn.

A rainforest has many layers of vegetation (plants) growing within it. All of these plants grow to different heights and create layers within the rainforest.

Rainforests are home to over half the species of plants and animals in the world and are a fantastic source of foods and medicines. They cover less than 2 per cent of the planet but contain an estimated 50 per cent of all life on earth's land masses.

Habitat loss is the main cause of extinction. Deforestation (at a rate of about 300,000km² a year) has been caused by commercial logging, mineral extraction, commercial farming and subsistence farming.

