




Year 5 Under the Canopy – KNOWLEDGE MAT

Summer 2



Topic Vocabulary	Key Knowledge	
<p>Camouflage- the ability to blend in with a habitat by displaying the same colours, markings or patterns as the surroundings.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rainforests are very dense, warm and wet forests. Rainforests have an annual rainfall of at least 100 inches (254 centimeters) and often much more. • Rainforests cover only 6% of the Earth's surface but yet they contain MORE THAN 1/2 of the world's plant and animal species! • The Amazon Rainforest is the largest in the world at nearly 1.5 billion acres. This forest spans nine different countries and is home to tens of thousands of plant species, thousands of animal species and over 2.5 million insect species. • An area of a rainforest the size of a football field is being destroyed each second. Many people work hard to try and save the world's rainforests and the animals which live there, including David Attenborough and Jane Goodall. Sir David Attenborough has been at the forefront of global conservation for more than 60 years. 	
<p>Canopy- one of the upper layers of the rainforest, found directly under the emergent layer. It forms a natural 'roof' over the two layers below and contains more animal and plant species than any other layer.</p>		
<p>Conservation- work which is done to stop something being lost or wasted, to keep something safe or preserve it.</p>		
<p>Deforestation- the clearing or chopping down of large areas of trees.</p>		
<p>Emergent- the uppermost layer of the rainforest, where the tallest trees emerge above the others.</p>		
<p>Forest floor- the lowest of the four main layers of a rainforest.</p>		
<p>Rainforest- a thick forest, usually found in tropical areas, which gets a lot of rainfall and contains a large number of plant and animal species.</p>		
<p>Species- a category or group; referring to a set of animals or plants which have similar characteristics.</p>		
<p>Understory- the rainforest layer directly under the canopy and above the forest floor.</p>		

There are four main parts of a Rainforest:

Emergent Layer - very sunny because it is the very top. Only the tallest trees reach this level.

Who lives here? birds, butterflies and small monkeys with bats, snakes and bugs.

Canopy Layer - much of the rain is stopped by the thick foliage. Most trees in the forest grow to this height. There are plants that grow in the canopy layer. Their roots don't reach the ground. These are called air plants.

Who lives here? birds, monkeys, frogs, and sloths, as well as lizards, snakes and many insects.

Understory Layer - many vines, dense vegetation, not much light.

Who lives here? birds, butterflies, frogs and snakes.

Forest Floor - dark, damp, full of many dead leaves, twigs and dead plants. The forest floor is dark due to the trees above stopping the sunlight from entering the forest. It is estimated that only 2% of the sunlight actually reaches the floor.

Who lives here? jaguars in South America, gorillas and leopards in Africa and tapirs, tigers and elephants in Asia.