

Geography: Why is the Amazon Rainforest so wet and the Sahara Desert so dry?

Y3 Spring term 2



National Curriculum subject content:

Locational knowledge

- ✓ locate the world's countries, concentrating on their environmental regions, key physical and human characteristics, countries, and major cities
- ✓ identify the position and significance of latitude, longitude, Equator, Northern Hemisphere, Southern Hemisphere, the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn, Arctic and Antarctic Circle, the Prime/Greenwich Meridian and time zones (including day and night)

Place knowledge

- ✓ understand geographical similarities and differences through the study of human and physical geography of a region of the United Kingdom, a region in a European country, and a region within North or South America

Human and physical geography

- ✓ describe and understand key aspects of:
- ✓ physical geography, including: climate zones, biomes and vegetation belts, rivers,
- ✓ mountains, volcanoes and earthquakes, and the water cycle
- ✓ human geography, including: types of settlement and land use, economic activity including trade links, and the distribution of natural resources including energy, food, minerals and water

Geographical skills and fieldwork

- ✓ use maps, atlases, globes and digital/computer mapping to locate countries and describe features studied

National Curriculum theme:

- ✓ Comparing hot and cold climates.

Key Vocabulary:

adapted	To become used to.
arid	Extremely dry, especially from lack of rainfall.
climate	The usual weather conditions in a place.
deforestation	The action of clearing a wide area of trees.
desert	A place that gets less than 250mm of rainfall a year.
desertification	When an area which is already quite dry becomes a desert.
desert dwellers	A person who lives in a desert
desert formations	When deserts change shape because of the effects of wind, rain and temperature.
environment	Everything that surrounds a particular type of living thing and affects its growth and health.
equator	An imaginary line drawn on the earth equidistant from the poles, dividing the earth into northern and southern hemispheres.
erosion	Wearing away of the earth's surface by wind or water.
evaporation	The process to turn from liquid into gas
hostile	Hard to bear; harsh
inhospitable	Of a place or climate, not offering shelter or a favourable condition
natural resources	Materials from the Earth that are used to support life and meet people's needs.
Nomad	A member of a group or tribe that has no fixed home and moves from place to place.
Oasis (pl. oases)	A fertile spot in the desert where water is found.
precipitation	The act of water falling in the form of rain, snow, sleet, or hail.
temperature	The degree of heat or cold of an object or an environment.
tropics/tropical	A region or climate that is frost-free with temperatures high enough to support year-round plant growth given sufficient moisture.
vegetation	Plants or plant life in a particular place.

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Sequence of Learning:					
Objectives (key knowledge):					
Lesson 1 To place locate the Amazon Rainforest and to know its key features.	Lesson 2 To locate the Sahara Desert and know its key features.	Lesson 3 To learn about desert formations.	Lesson 4 To learn about the Sahara's arid climate.	Lesson 5 To learn about the Saharan Nomads; how they survive, their food and their habitation.	Lesson 6 To answer the question using geographical terminology and language: why is the Amazon Rainforest so wet and why is the Sahara Desert so dry?

Key information about the Amazon Rainforest

It is the largest rainforest in the world. It is spread across 9 countries in South America. The Amazon River flows through it. It is home to more than 30 million people.

Loggers and farmers cut down trees causing deforestation. The climate is tropical. This means it is wet and warm. People in the Amazon often travel by boat rather than land. 60% of the Amazon Rainforest is located in Brazil. More than 20% of the Amazon Rainforest has been destroyed through deforestation. One fifth of the world's fresh water is in the Amazon Basin.

Key information about the Sahara Desert

It is the largest hot desert in the world. It covers the top half of the continent of Africa. An oasis is a place where water is found in a desert. This can be underground as a river or a pool. Towns are built up around oases because there is always a supply of water around an oasis.