

Brazil and The Amazon: Why is the Amazon rainforest so important?



Physical maps show the landscape, including rivers, mountains, low-level land and lakes

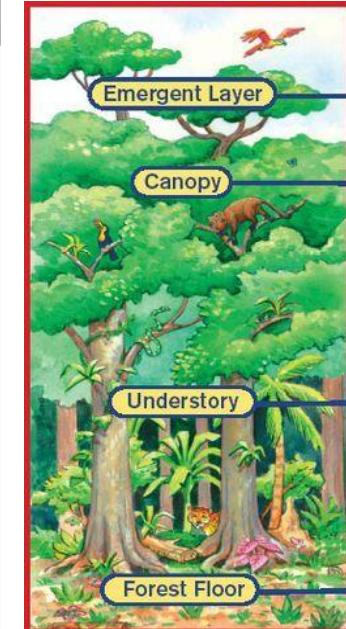


Ten countries border Brazil. These are: Argentina, Paraguay, Bolivia, Peru, Columbia, Venezuela, Guyana, Uruguay, French Guiana and Suriname.

The capital city is Brasília, located in the central-west region of Brazil. Other major cities are Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo, located on the south-west coast.



Layers of the rainforest



Birds, bats, and butterflies live in the tops of the tallest trees. That is called the **emergent layer**.

In the tops of the shorter trees, or **canopy**, you can find animals such as toucans and monkeys.

Snakes, red-eyed tree frogs, and other animals live in the **understory**, or lower branches.

Animals such as jaguars can be found on the dark **forest floor**.

Key Vocabulary

Biome	A biome is a large area characterized by its vegetation, soil, climate, and wildlife .
Climate	The weather and temperature usually found in an area over a long period of time.
Deforestation	The destruction of trees over large areas.
Equator	An imaginary line of latitude that divides the Earth into Northern and Southern Hemispheres. This cuts through Brazil.
Indigenous people	Indigenous people means the first people who lived in any region. Groups are usually described as indigenous when they maintain traditions or other aspects of an early culture that is associated with a given region.
Logging	Felling and cutting of trees.
Tropic of Capricorn	A line of latitude- south of the Equator - which provides a boundary for the tropics.
Line of latitude	Used to describe location of places on Earth. They run in an east-west direction.
Line of longitude	Used to describe location of places on Earth. They run in a north-south direction.
Urbanisation	This refers to the gradual increase in the proportion of people living in urban areas (cities and towns).