

## Tropical Rainforest

Tropical rain forests are woodlands around the equator with a lot of vegetation that is **evergreen**. It is very warm and rain falls **throughout** the year.

**Although** only 7 % of the land **surface** are covered with rainforests , more than half of the world's plants and animal **species** live there.

Rainforests are very important for human beings. Plants produce food and medicine and we get industrial products out of some of them. Trees produce **timber** , help control the earth's climate and **supply** us with fresh air.

**Despite** these **advantages**, people cut down thousands of square kilometres of rain forest every year.

## Climate

Temperatures stay the same the whole year round—about 20 to 30 degrees Celsius.

Around the **equator** there are two rainy seasons with heavy rainfall — up to 10 metres. When you move away from the equator it gets a bit drier in some months , but there is still more than 2 metres of rain a year.

The **weather hardly** changes from one day to the next. In the morning it is clear . The sun starts heating up the ground and warm, **humid** air starts to **rise**. In the afternoon clouds get blacker and there are thunderstorms for an hour or two before it starts to **clear up** again .

Most of the rain stays in the rain forest . It **evaporates** , **creates** clouds and falls down again.

Rain forest **soils** are not very **fertile** because the rain washes out most of the **nutrients**.

· [Ads by Google](#)   [Rain Forest](#)   [Rainforest](#)   [Palm Trees](#)   [Amazon Forest](#)

*Daily weather cycle in the tropical rainforest*

## Structure of the rain forest

Rainforests have four **layers**.

1. The top layer is the canopy. It **consists** of the tallest trees of the rain forest. They may get over 50 metres tall. But only very few **reach** this **height**. This is the part that gets most of the sunlight.
2. The subcanopy is a **layer** of trees that is below the canopy. More than 70 % of rainforest animals and plant **species** live in the canopy and subcanopy. **Lianas** often climb around trees.