

Vocabulary

Geography	biodiversity	the variety of life
	biome	large naturally occurring community of flora and fauna occupying a major habitat
	canopy	top layer (roof) of the rainforest
	deforestation	the action of clearing a wide area of trees.
	ecosystems	all living and non-living things in an area
	emergent	the tops of the trees that poke up above the canopy of a rainforest
	environment	all the surroundings of a place
	exploited	used for someone's advantage
	fauna	animal life of a region
	flora	plant life of a region
	forest	woodlands where there are mostly trees
	forest floor	layer of soil and debris on the forest land
	habitat	home
	species	group of similar animals or organisms
	tropical rainforest	a tropical woodland with an annual rainfall of at least 100 inches.
	tundra	cold and treeless areas
understorey	a layer in the rainforest just beneath the canopy	
unsustainable	cannot be continued	
Science	adaptation	being changed
	calibrate	mark or adjust
	classification	a category into which something is put.
	determine	find out or discover
	evolution	how different kinds of living organism are believed to have developed from earlier forms during the history of the earth.
	genetically	how behaviours are passed from parent to offspring
	indicate	show
	invertebrate	an animal lacking a backbone
	life cycle	the series of changes in life of an organism
	metamorphosis	process of an insect or amphibian changing into its adult form
	organism	an individual animal, plant, single cell life form
	plantlets	small or young plants
	pollination	part of the plant life cycle
	reproduction	create new plants and animals
	vertebrate	an animal with a backbone
	History	astronomers
calendar		a chart with days, weeks, months and years
civilisation		how people have developed and live together
Palenque		a Mayan city
Tikal		a Mayan city
warriors	people involved in war or battle	

How are you helping to look after the planet?

Year 5 Crew
Knowledge Organiser
Terms 1 and 2

Enquiries

How can we be more sustainable?
Why do we need to be sustainable?
Why are the rainforests important?
If we damage the world, what is the impact?
How were the Mayans sustainable?

Key Facts

The Mayan civilisation began in a place called Mesoamerica. They were experts at reading the stars. The Mayans were the first civilisation to develop writing and were sophisticated mathematicians. Tropical rainforests are found between the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn. Tropical rainforests contains far more species of plants and animals than any other biome. They cover approximately six per cent of the Earth's surface, and because they get 2,000 mm of rain per year. Temperatures range from around 27 to 32°C. Rainforests are important because they provide oxygen. In some areas, there is pressure to use rainforest resources to help development but this can lead to resources being exploited in an unsustainable way. A plant's features are adapted to pollination by insect or wind. The threats faced by animals like chimpanzees could lead to the extinction of the species.

Anchor texts

Boy in the Tower by Polly Ho Yen



Key Dates

400 city-state of Teotihuacan becomes the dominant city and rules over the Maya highlands.
560 city-state of Tikal is defeated by an alliance of other city-states.
600 Teotihuacan declines and is no longer a cultural centre.
600 city-state of Caracol becomes a major force in the land.
900 Teotihuacan is abandoned.
925 Chichen Itza becomes the most powerful city-state in the region. It will rule for the next two hundred years.
1250 Chichen Itza is abandoned.
1283 Mayapan becomes the capital city of the Maya civilization.
1441 The people rebel against the rule of Mayapan.
1517 arrival of the Spanish and conquistador Hernández de Córdoba
1519 Hernan Cortes arrives and explores the Yucatan Peninsula.
1541 Many Mayan city-states are conquered by the Spanish.
1542 The Spanish found the city of Merida.
1695 The ruins of Tikal are discovered by a Spanish priest who is lost in the jungle.

Diagrams



