

Video summary	Before watching the video	During the video
<p>Exploring the layers of a tropical rainforest and the plants and animals found in the rainforest biome.</p> <p>Presenter Ferne Corrigan describes the features of the four main layers of the rainforest - the ground layer, the shrub layer, the under canopy and the main canopy. She identifies some of the animals to be found in each layer.</p> <p>Two examples of adaptations are included: the teak tree and the Indian elephant - both have adapted to flourish in the tropical rainforest biome.</p> <p>The film ends with a reflection that the natural resources of rainforests are being exploited at unsustainable levels, with deforestation potentially impacting the future of the biome.</p>	<p>Look at a map of the distribution of tropical rainforests. Ask students to look for a pattern in the distribution and discuss why the tropical rainforests are located where it is.</p> <p>Ask students about the types of animals that they think might live in the tropical rainforests and what type of climate they live in. Students could make predictions, which they could then add to once they have watched the film.</p> <p>Introduce key terms such as: Humid: A high amount of water vapour in the air. Decomposition: The natural breakdown of organic material. Canopy: The upper layers of a forest. Epiphytes: Plants which grow on the trunk and branches of other trees, Buttress roots: Large, wide roots that provide extra support for tall trees.</p>	<p>You may wish to stop at relevant points during this short film to pose questions and check understanding or wait until the end. Useful questions might include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where are tropical rainforests found? • What is the climate like? • What are the conditions like in the ground layer? • What are the conditions like in the shrub layer? • What are the conditions like in the under canopy? • What are the conditions like in the main canopy? • What are epiphytes? • What are emergents? • How are the teak trees adapted to living in the tropical rainforest climate? • How are the Indian elephants adapted to living in the tropical rainforest climate? • How do humans use the tropical rainforests?
After watching		
<p>Ask students to look back at their predictions, were they right about what they thought they would see in the tropical rainforests? Students could complete a spider diagram to note down the basic information about each of the tropical rainforest characteristics: vegetation, climate, animals and human uses.</p> <p>Give students an image of the layers of the rainforest and ask them to annotate it with the characteristics of each layer. They should explain what type of plants can be found in each layer, and why they are found there, for example why are some trees called emergents?</p>		

Discuss the human uses of the tropical rainforest. Ask students whether they think those uses are good for the tropical rainforest or if they will cause issues. Students could then rank the uses from most damaging to least damaging using their opinion and then writing up their decision.

Curriculum notes	Where next?	Links
<p>This clip will be relevant for teaching Geography at KS3 and GCSE.</p> <p>This topic appears in OCR, Edexcel, AQA, WJEC KS4/GCSE in England and Wales, CCEA GCSE in Northern Ireland and SQA National 4/5 in Scotland.</p>	<p>Compare the savanna to a contrasting biome such as the tundra or the boreal forest.</p> <p>Students could compare:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Animals • Vegetation • Climate • Human uses <p>A case study could be built for the tropical rainforest using a real-life example such as the Amazon Rainforest. This could form a research task which students could then present to the class.</p>	<p>Tropical rainforests: https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zppthcw</p> <p>Key characteristics of tropical rainforests: https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zpbfqty/revision/1</p> <p>Distribution of ecosystems: https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/ztcch39/revision/3</p> <p>Rainforest layers: https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zpr2wnb/revision/2</p> <p>Human activity in tropical rainforests: https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/z3y9frd/revision/2</p>