

Glossary of Terms: Amazon Rainforest

Term and Definition

A

agouti

(noun; animal)

a tropical American rodent with a large head and body but thin legs, small ears and tiny bald tail



Amazon

(noun)

referring to the Amazon rainforest in South America

Amazonian

(adjective)

from or referring to the Amazon rainforest region or surrounding area of the River Amazon

anaconda

(noun; animal)

a large snake, native to tropical South America, which lives partly on land and partly in water



B

Brazil nut

(noun)

a curved nut that grows inside a hard, woody, three-sided shell on trees in South America

bullet ant

(noun; animal)

a species of ant which lives in humid rainforests and is known for its painful sting



C

caiman

(noun; animal)

an animal similar to a crocodile or alligator, native to tropical South America

camouflage

(noun)

the ability to blend in with a habitat by displaying the same colours, markings or patterns as the surroundings

canopy [layer]

(noun)

one of the upper layers of the rainforest, sometimes known as the 'habitat zone'; found directly underneath the emergent layer, it forms a natural 'roof' over the two layers below and contains more animal and plant species than any other layer

capuchin monkey

(noun; animal)

a species of monkey from Central and South America which lives in the upper canopy of the rainforest

carnivore

(noun)

an animal species which eats only meat, usually a predator

Glossary of Terms: Amazon Rainforest

Term and Definition



conservation

(noun)

work which is done to stop something (such as the rainforest or environment) being lost or wasted, to keep something safe or preserve it

cotinga

(noun; animal)

a tropical songbird, usually brightly coloured

D

deforestation

(noun)

the clearing or chopping down of large areas of trees

E

emergent [layer]

(noun)

the uppermost layer of the rainforest where the tallest trees emerge above the others; the layer of the rainforest which gets the most sunlight but has to withstand strong winds and direct heat from the sun

environmentally friendly

(adjective)

not harmful to the environment

epiphytes

(noun; plant)

a plant that does not grow in the ground but may grow on another plant, getting its moisture from the air



F

forest floor [layer]

(noun)

the lowest of the four main rainforest layers; very quiet, dark and covered in rotting leaves, it receives little sunlight

H

howler monkey

(noun; animal)

a species native to Central and South America which has a loud howl that can travel up to three miles

I

iguana

(noun; animal)

a large type of lizard; usually grey or green in colour and native to Central and South America, it has distinctive spines running down its back

L

logger

(noun)

a person who is responsible for felling (chopping down) trees

Glossary of Terms: Amazon Rainforest

Term and Definition

M

macaw

(noun; animal)
a variety of long-tailed parrot; usually brightly coloured and native to Central and South America



O

orchid

(noun; plant)
a distinctive type of flowering plant with brightly coloured, unusual flowers; commonly epiphytes

oxygen

(noun)
an element in our air which is generated by plants, and which we need to survive

P

potoo

(noun; animal)
a type of bird found in tropical Central America, sometimes called 'poor-me-ones' due to their unusual calling sound; a nocturnal bird which eats insects



R

predator

(noun)
an animal that hunts or preys upon another animal for food

prey

(noun)
an animal that is hunted or killed by another animal for food

rainforest

(noun)
a thick forest, usually found in tropical areas which get a lot of rainfall and containing a large number of plant and animal species

S

sapling

(noun)
a young tree, especially with particularly thin, fragile trunk

sloth

(noun; animal)
tropical American mammal, known for being particularly slow-moving and for hanging upside down from tree branches



Glossary of Terms: Amazon Rainforest

Term and Definition

T

species

(noun)

a category or group; referring to a set of animals or plants which have similar characteristics

toucan

(noun; animal)

a species of bird with a very large bill and bright feathers and which eats fruit

U

understory [layer]

(noun)

the rainforest layer directly under the canopy but above the forest floor; often has thick growth and can be dark with vines and shrubs

V

venomous

(adjective)

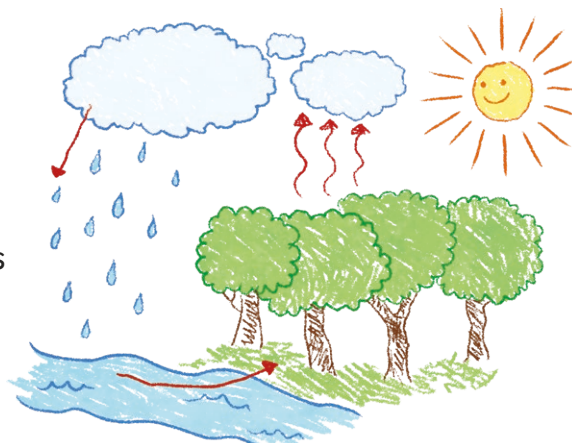
able to inject venom or poison through a bite or sting

W

water cycle

(noun)

the process through which water evaporates and becomes vapour, then travels in cloud form and falls as rain



webcam

(noun)

a video camera connected to a computer, allowing visitors to view what is being recorded via the Internet; often used by charities in the rainforest

