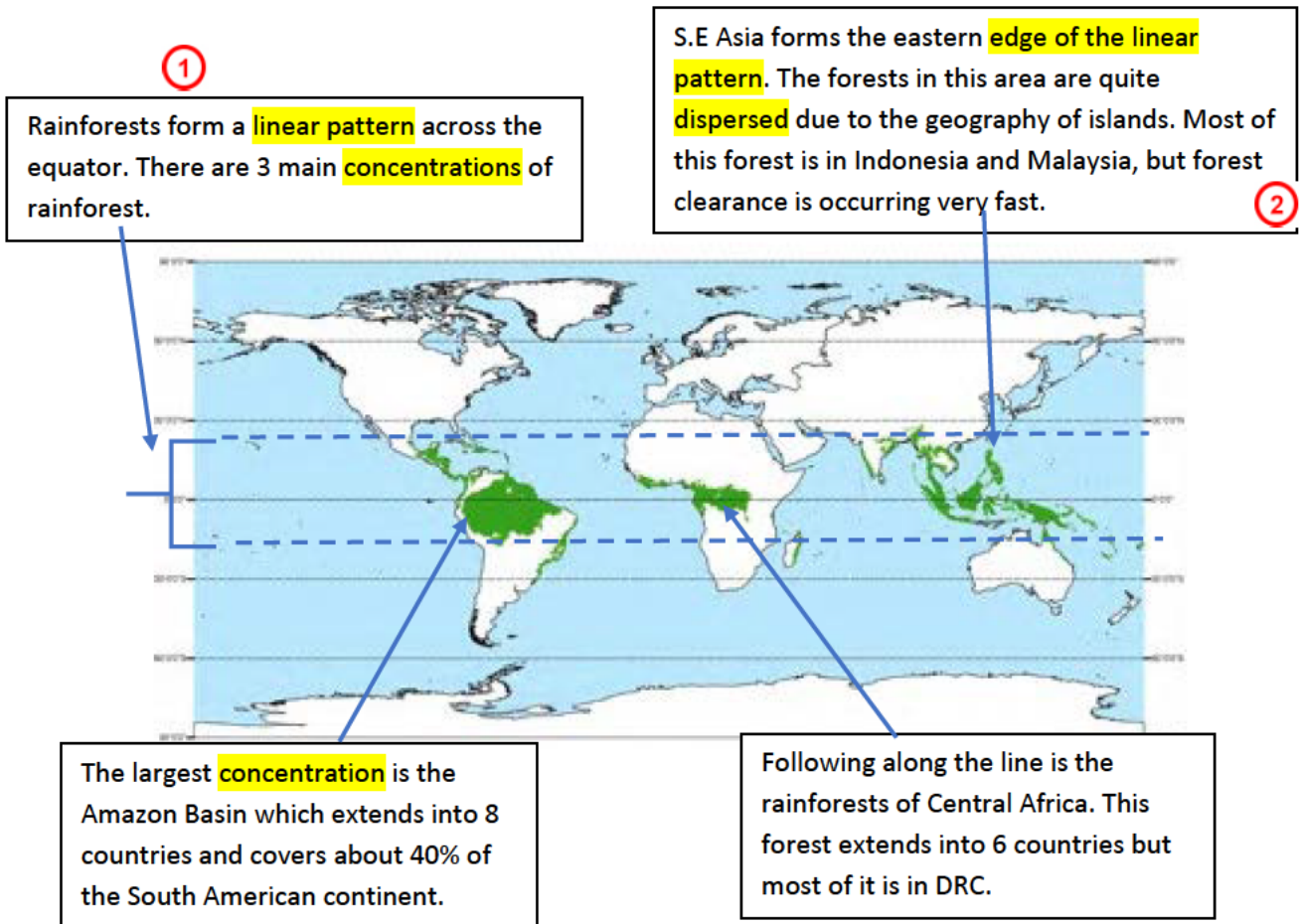


Global distribution of Tropical rainforests



The rainforests extend in linear pattern across the globe between the tropics but as shown on the map it is not a continuous line. In South America and Asia the line extends as far as the Tropic of... Africa has a much narrower rainforest area only about 10° North and South...

CAUSES:

Latitude and a range of climatic factors and processes were explained in detail as contributing to the pattern.

Significance of the topic for people

The rainforests are significant for a range of groups including indigenous tribes, commercial interest groups and the wider global community. Significance can be based on how the forests are used and our dependence on them, for example, basic needs like food and shelter, valuable timbers, medicines etc. But forests are also important because of the influence they have on global climates.

Indigenous tribes inhabit all the major rainforest, these groups include the Matis and Waorani tribes in the Amazon, Mbuti and BaAka Pygmies in ... These peoples have a sustainable perspective and a vast knowledge of the qualities of the rainforest ecosystem... The forests tribes tend to live in small

groups and are often nomadic as this ensures minimal impact on the forests... The canopy is not disturbed as it is needed to protect the people, undergrowth plants and animals from the sun, this practice also encourages fast regeneration... Foods include "bush meat", honey, fruit ... The indigenous people such as the Waorani in the Amazon and BaAka of the Central African Republic use forest products to construct a range of tools. For hunting bows, arrows, nets, darts... The darts are made from a sharpened rib of a palm leaf, this is dipped in poison from a poisonous frog, beetle or plant. The quiver for the darts is made from bamboo and cotton from the kapok tree... Shelter is also provided from rain forest materials...The Pygmies in Central Africa make huts like igloos from saplings and leaves, the bows, arrows and nets used for hunting are made from materials of the forest... Culture and traditions are largely intertwined with the rainforest with many tribes believing that in death they become forest animals... Even as the forest people begin to harvest the forest for more commercial reasons they use more sustainable practices like in Indonesia they use the natural strength of elephants for logging instead of using industrial machines and selectively log rather than clear felling...

Rainforests are significant as a source of income for many developing nations, with timbers like Mahogany and teak in high demand for ... Commercial logging provide employment ...

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One quarter of all current medicines have been derived from species living within these tropical rainforests

Tropical forests are of global importance due to their large impact on the climate. Tropical rainforests act as a 'carbon sink' meaning that they absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. Rates of deforestation globally are currently high. Through this removal of trees, there is less conversion of CO² to O² through photosynthesis, further increasing CO² levels... Greenhouse effect... The rise in global temperature...sea levels rise...upset the balance of global ecosystems...

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