



Tropical Rainforests



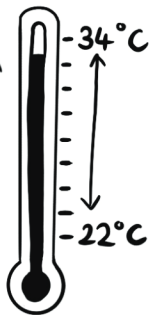
COVERING LESS THAN 2% OF THE EARTH'S SURFACE, TROPICAL RAINFORESTS ARE ONE OF THE MOST DIVERSE ECOSYSTEMS ON THE PLANET



THEY CAN BE FOUND BETWEEN THE TROPIC OF CAPRICORN AND THE TROPIC OF CANCER

HEAVY RAINFALL IS A KEY FEATURE

WARM + HUMID YEAR ROUND, WITH TEMPERATURES RANGING BETWEEN

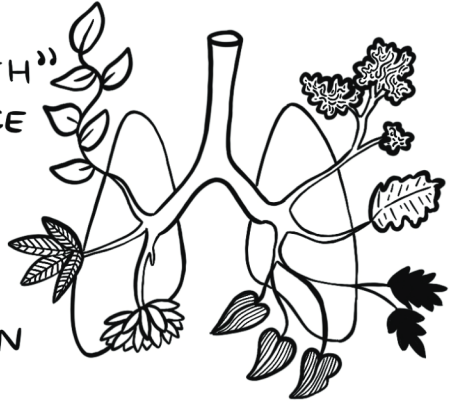


2,000 - 10,920 mm PER YEAR

THE "LUNGS OF THE EARTH" TROPICAL RAINFORESTS PRODUCE

25-30%

OF THE EARTH'S OXYGEN



TROPICAL RAINFORESTS HELP TO MITIGATE CLIMATE CHANGE ...

PREVENTING FLOODS AND DROUGHTS

STORING 25% OF TERRESTRIAL CARBON GLOBALLY

1 ACRE OF RAINFOREST STORES MORE CARBON THAN AN ACRE OF ANY OTHER TYPE OF VEGETATION

+ 70% OF PLANTS WITH ANTI-CANCER PROPERTIES ARE ONLY FOUND HERE

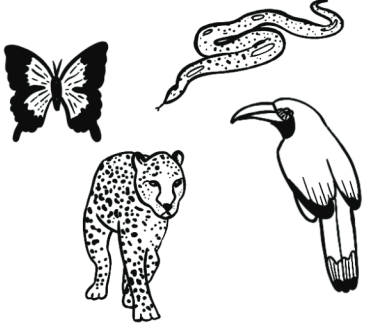
BUT...

FEWER THAN 1% OF ALL RAINFOREST SPECIES HAVE BEEN STUDIED FOR MEDICINAL PROPERTIES

AN ESTIMATED

3-50 million

SPECIES INHABIT TROPICAL RAINFORESTS



(MANY ARE, AS YET, UNDISCOVERED)

A SINGLE HECTARE OF TROPICAL RAINFOREST CAN CONTAIN

480 tree species

(VS 6 OR LESS IN TEMPERATE FORESTS)



Vegetation structure

THE EMERGENT LAYER
WHERE THE TALLEST TREES "EMERGE" THROUGH THE CANOPY.

THE CANOPY LAYER

THE FOREST'S "CEILING"

PACKED DENSELY WITH LARGE TREES



THE MID-STORY LAYER

WIDELY SPACED LEAVES AND BRANCHES

SMALLER TREE SPECIES



THE UNDERSTORY LAYER

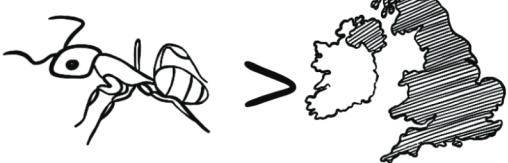
LOW GROWING PLANTS

SHRUBS, TREE SAPLINGS, TREE SEEDLINGS, VINES



1 shrub

IN THE AMAZON CONTAINS MORE ANT SPECIES THAN EXIST IN THE ENTIRE BRITISH ISLES



THE FOREST FLOOR

LOW GROWING PLANTS
FUNGUS AND TREE TRUNKS

