Where Are Tropical Rainforests?

Learning Objective

- To evaluate the conditions that create rainforests.

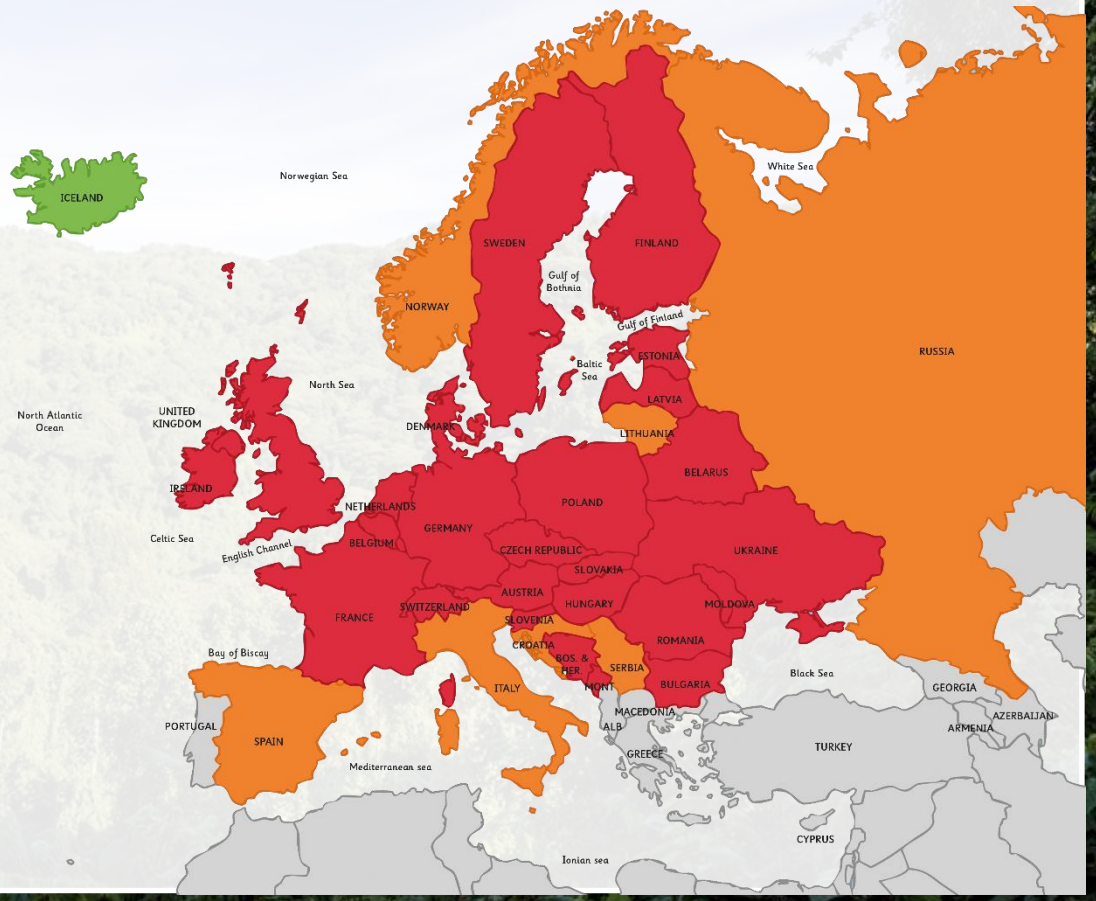
Success Criteria

- To describe the global distribution of tropical rainforests from a map.
- To explain the location of tropical rainforests.
- To use your new knowledge to work out where deserts may develop.

How Can We Describe the Distribution of the Rainforests?

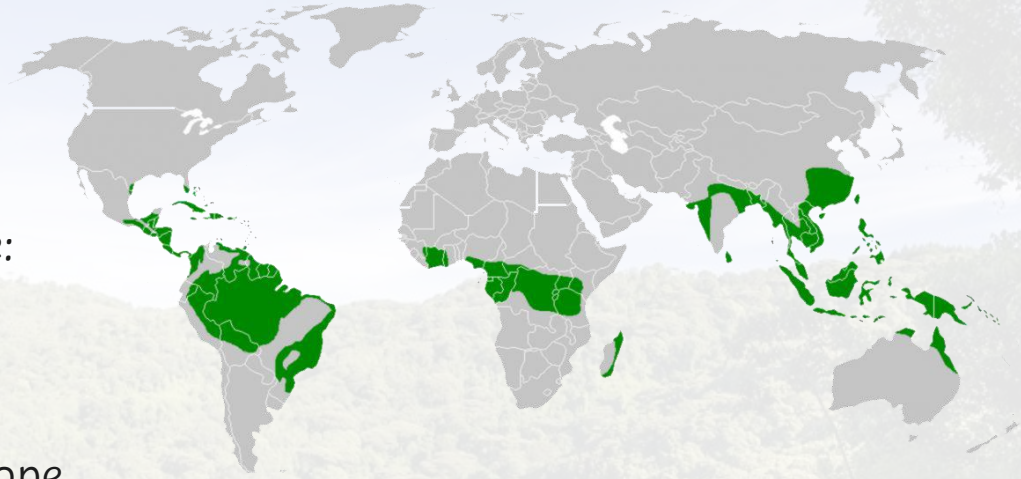
We describe where things are by stating where they are in relation to other, fixed features.

For example, The United Kingdom is in northern Europe, north of France, west of Denmark. The west coast of the UK meets the Atlantic Ocean, and the south coast meets the English channel.



Describe the Global Distribution of Tropical Rainforests (3 marks)

What key words should you include?



Key words you could use:

- Equator
- coastal
- inland
- continent names (Europe, North America, South America, Africa, Asia, Oceania, Antarctica)
- country names
- ocean names
- compass directions

Swap Books and Peer Mark

There are three marks available:

Tropical rainforests are found on and near to the **EQUATOR.**

They are found all around the circumference of the Earth.

They are **COASTAL** and **INLAND.**

They can be found in:
NORTHERN SOUTH AMERICA (Brazil/ Peru/ Mexico);
CENTRAL AFRICA (Democratic Republic of Congo/ Gabon/ Equatorial Guinea);
SOUTH EAST ASIA (Indonesia/ Papua New Guinea/ India/ Australia)

Explain the Location of Tropical Rainforests

One minute to think in pairs:
What two things do trees need to grow?

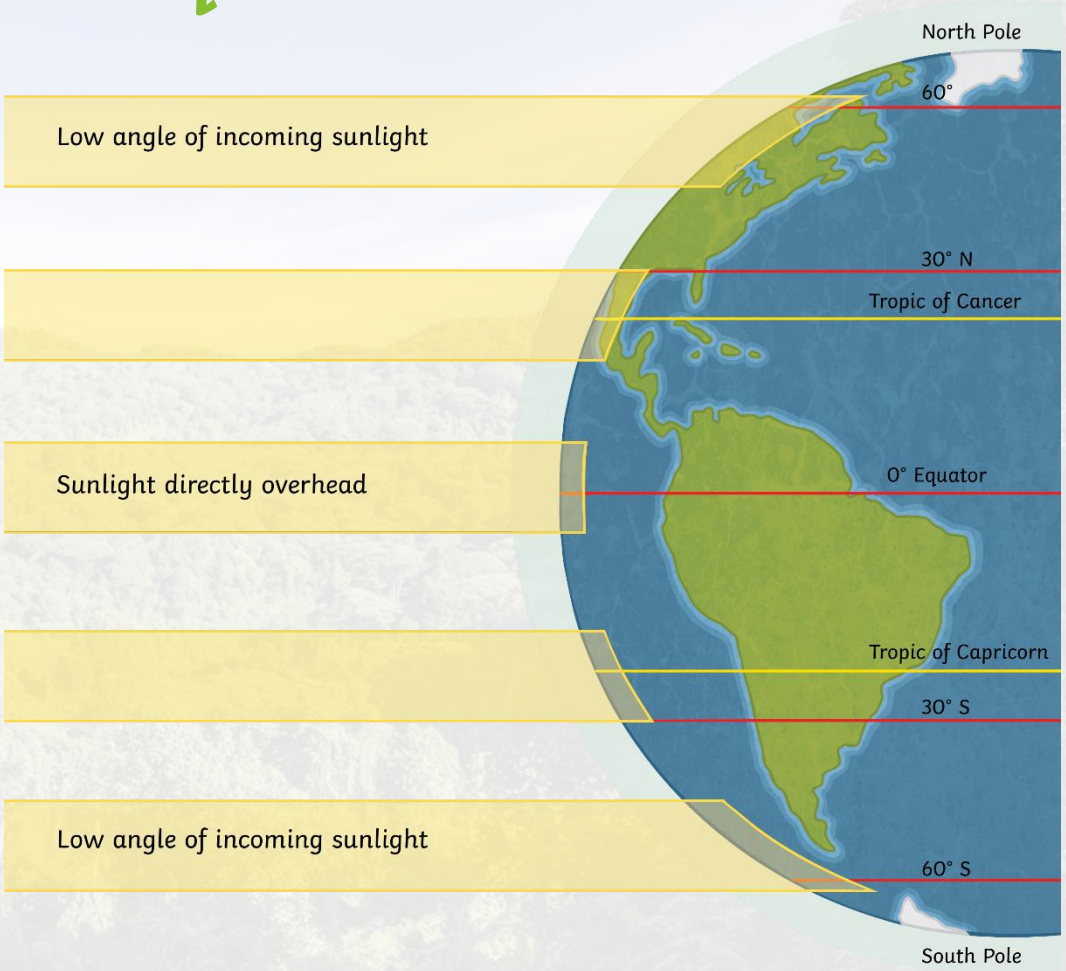
Sunlight

Water

Why Are Rainforests on the Equator?

Sunlight

Use this diagram to explain why there is a lot of sunlight on the Equator.

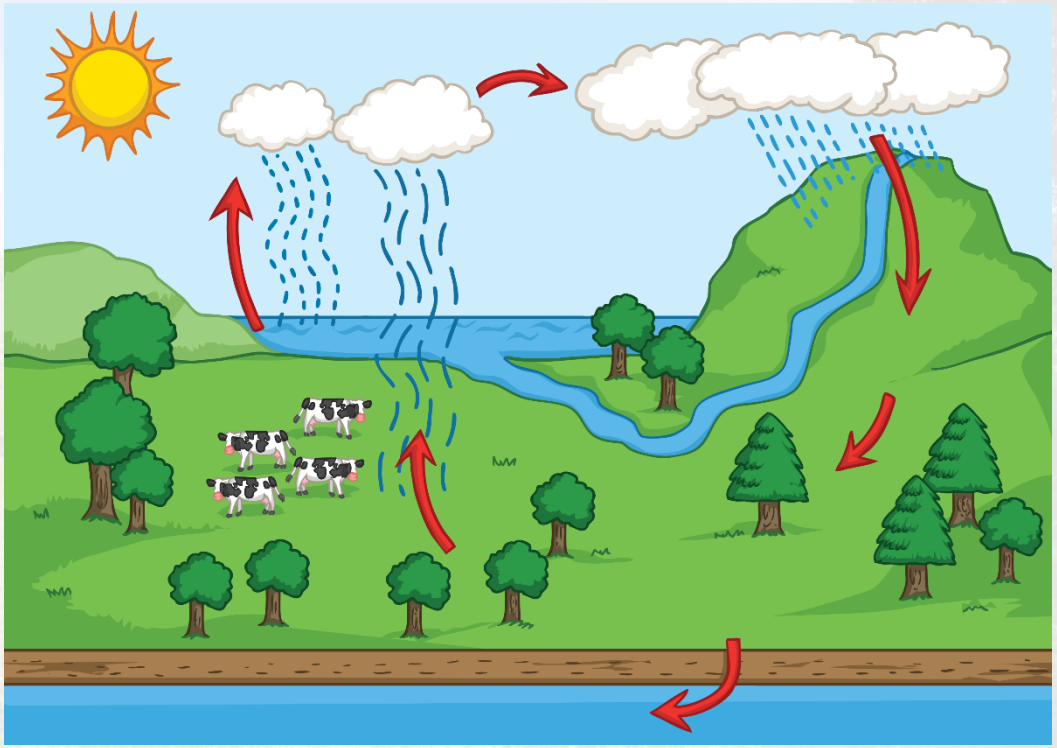


Why Are Rainforests on the Equator?

Water

One minute to think in pairs:

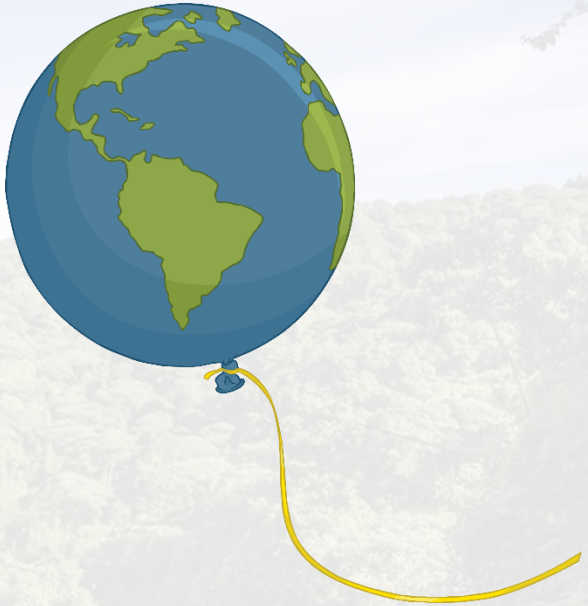
Quick re-cap, how is rain formed?



The Water Cycle

The first step in the water cycle is evaporation. For water to evaporate, it must be warm and in an area of low pressure.

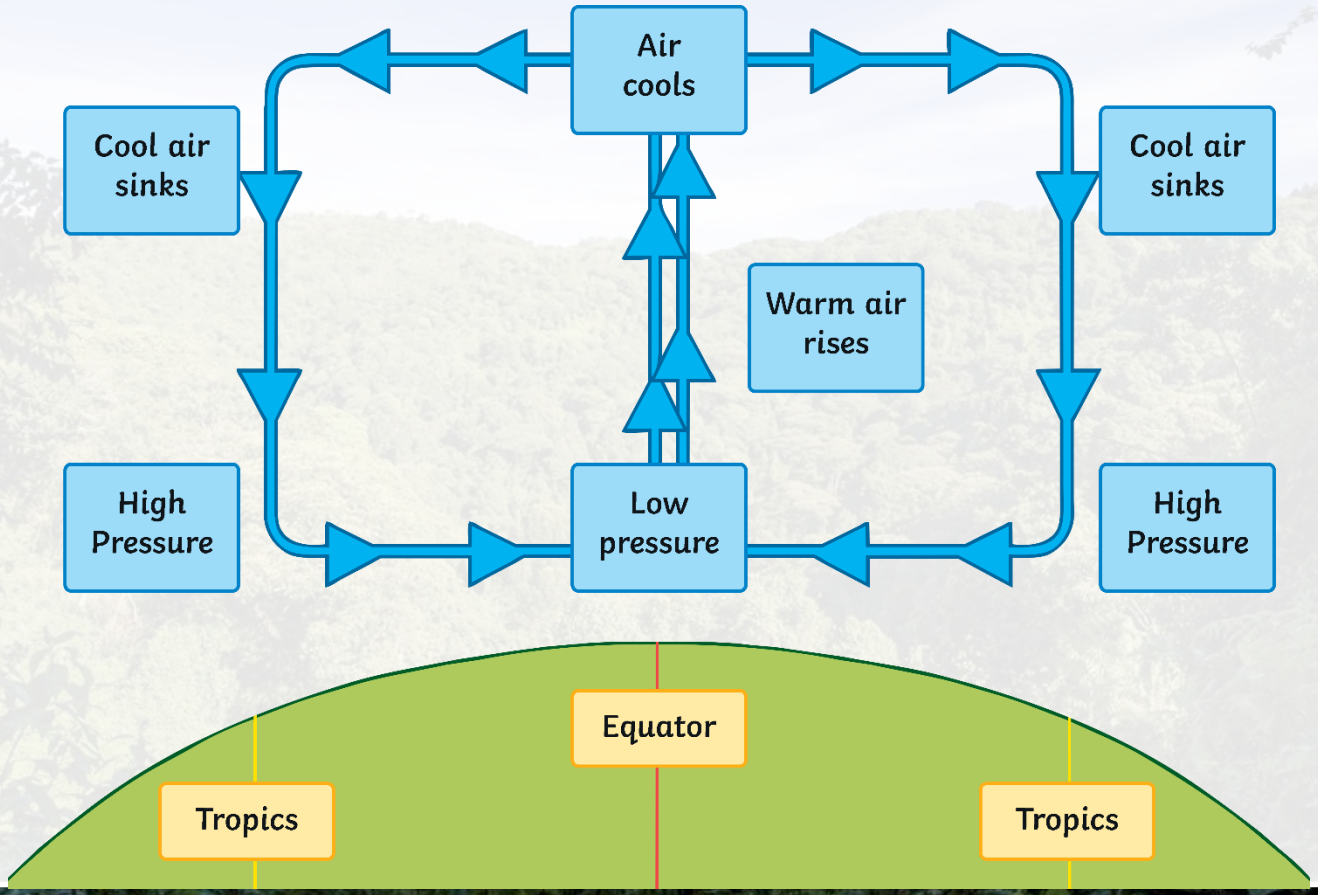
High pressure pushes air down



Low pressure allows air to rise

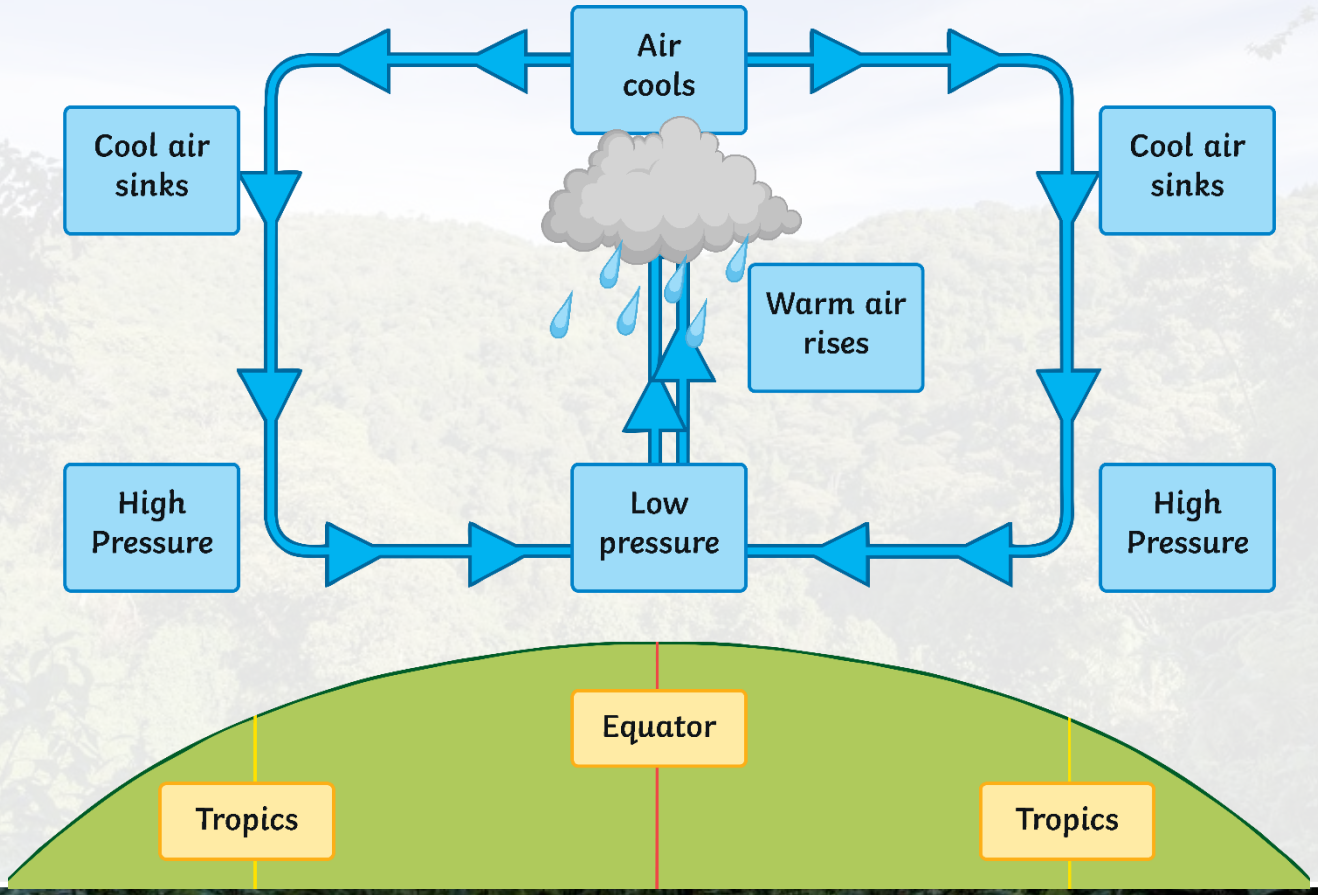
The Water Cycle

This is a diagram of a Hadley cell. It shows that there is low air pressure over the Equator.



The Water Cycle

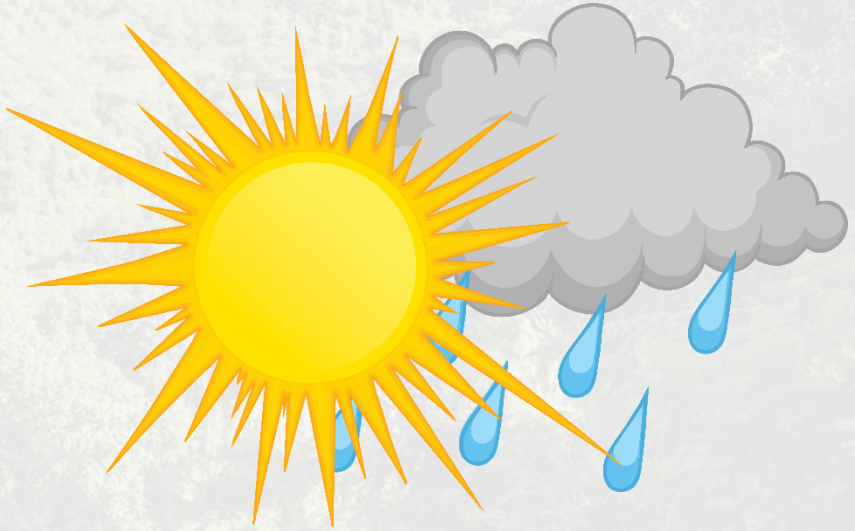
As there is **SUNLIGHT** and **LOW PRESSURE** on the Equator, water can evaporate. This creates a lot of rain.



Summary

Summary of what we have just learned:

1. Rainforests need **SUNLIGHT** and **WATER** to grow.
2. There is a lot of sunlight on the Equator because the Sun's rays are concentrated in that area.
3. There is a lot of rain on the Equator because it is warm and there is low air pressure. These are ideal conditions for evaporation, which in turn creates lots of rain.



Exam Question

Explain the Location of Tropical Rainforests (6 marks)

- Use your new knowledge to explain why tropical rainforests are located on the Equator.
- Include labelled diagrams in your answer.

Sentence starter ideas:

- The two primary requirements of a rainforest are….
- There is a lot of sunlight on the equator because….
- There is a lot of rain on the equator because….
- The Hadley cell diagram below shows that….

Key words you could include:

water cycle
Hadley cells
low pressure
evaporation
condensation
Equator
circumference

Can you use this diagram to work out where the deserts may develop?
(Deserts are geographical areas where there is
less than 25cm of rain per year.)