



The Rainforest

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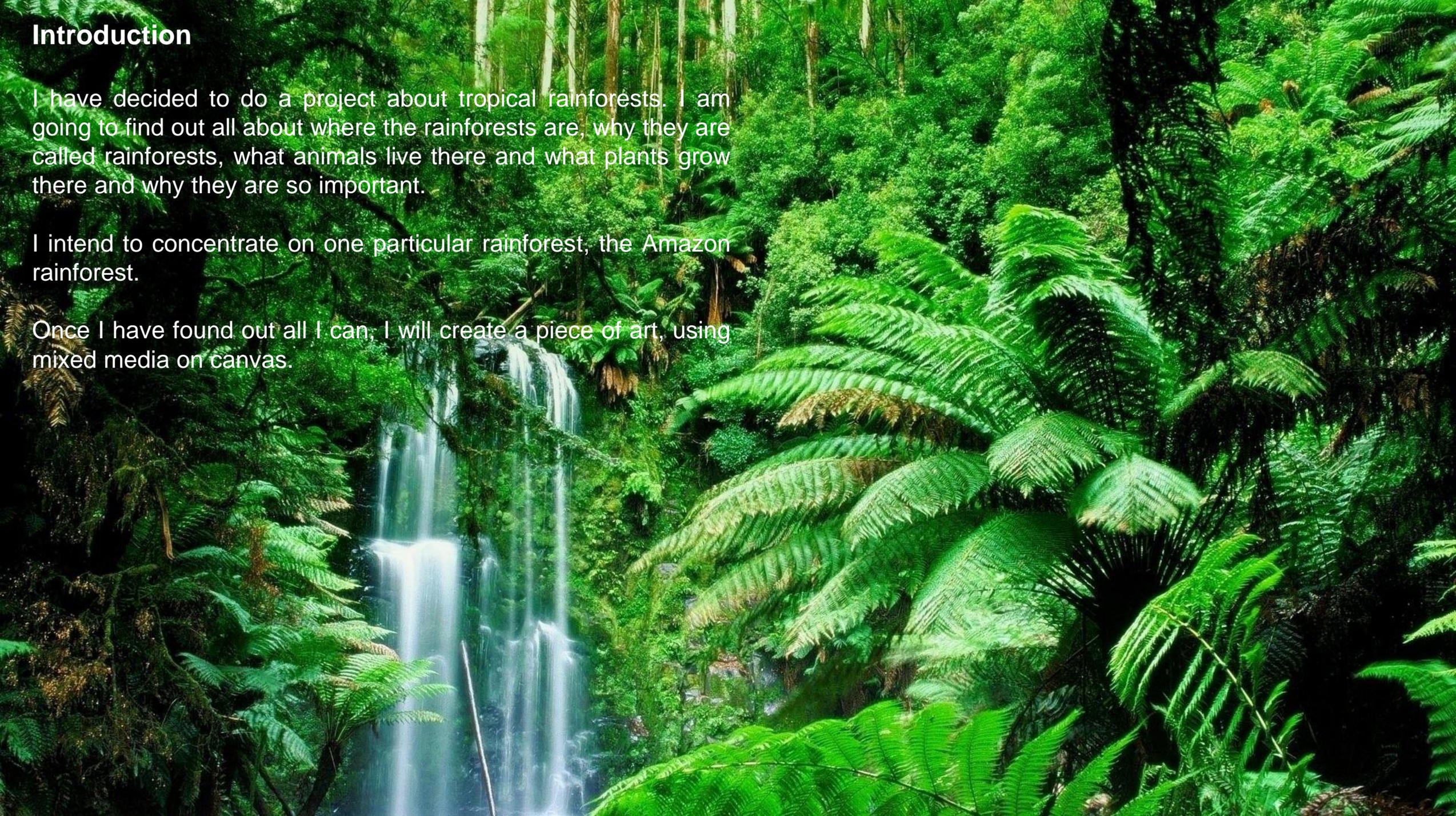
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Introduction

I have decided to do a project about tropical rainforests. I am going to find out all about where the rainforests are, why they are called rainforests, what animals live there and what plants grow there and why they are so important.

I intend to concentrate on one particular rainforest, the Amazon rainforest.

Once I have found out all I can, I will create a piece of art, using mixed media on canvas.

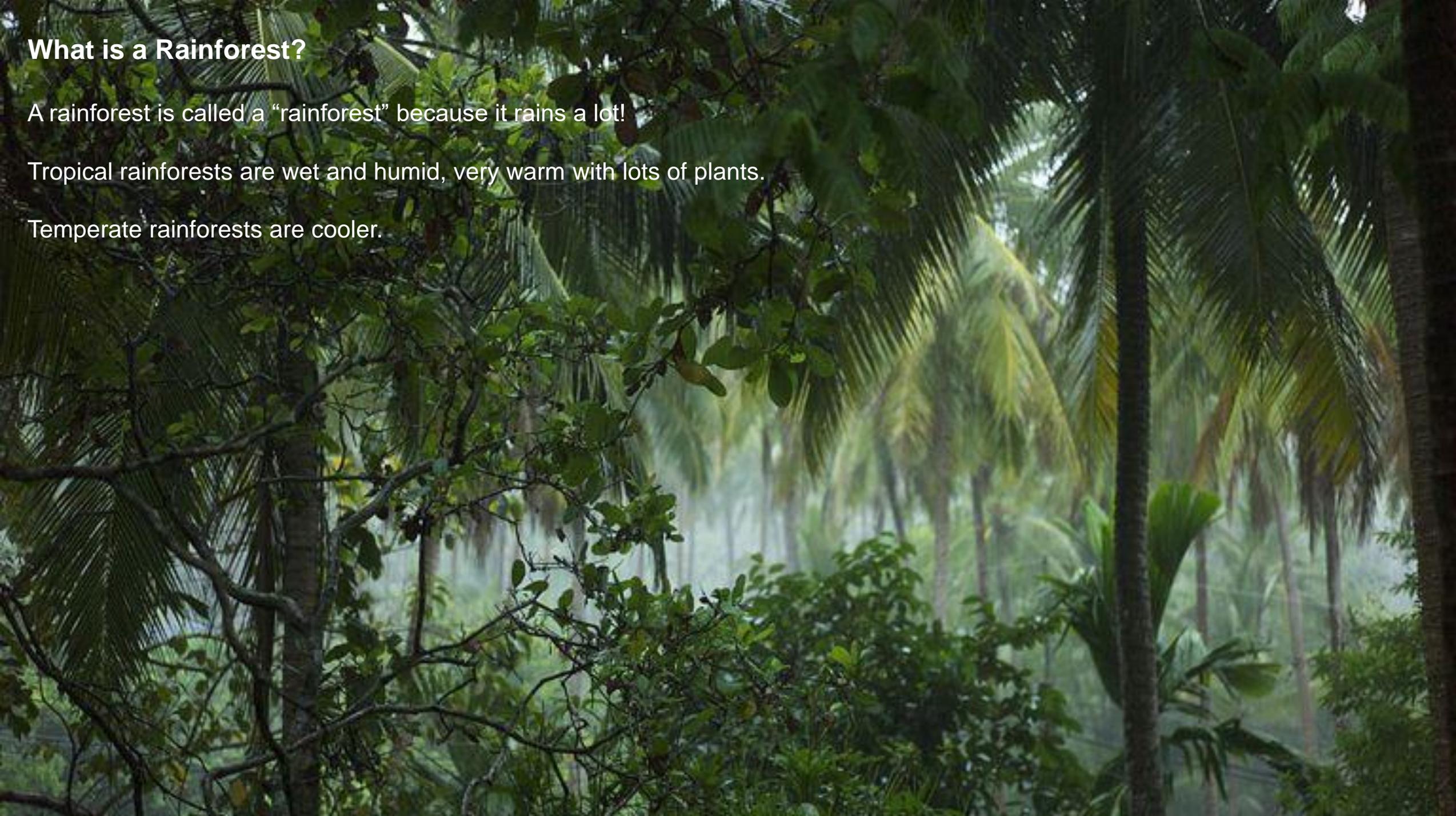


What is a Rainforest?

A rainforest is called a “rainforest” because it rains a lot!

Tropical rainforests are wet and humid, very warm with lots of plants.

Temperate rainforests are cooler.

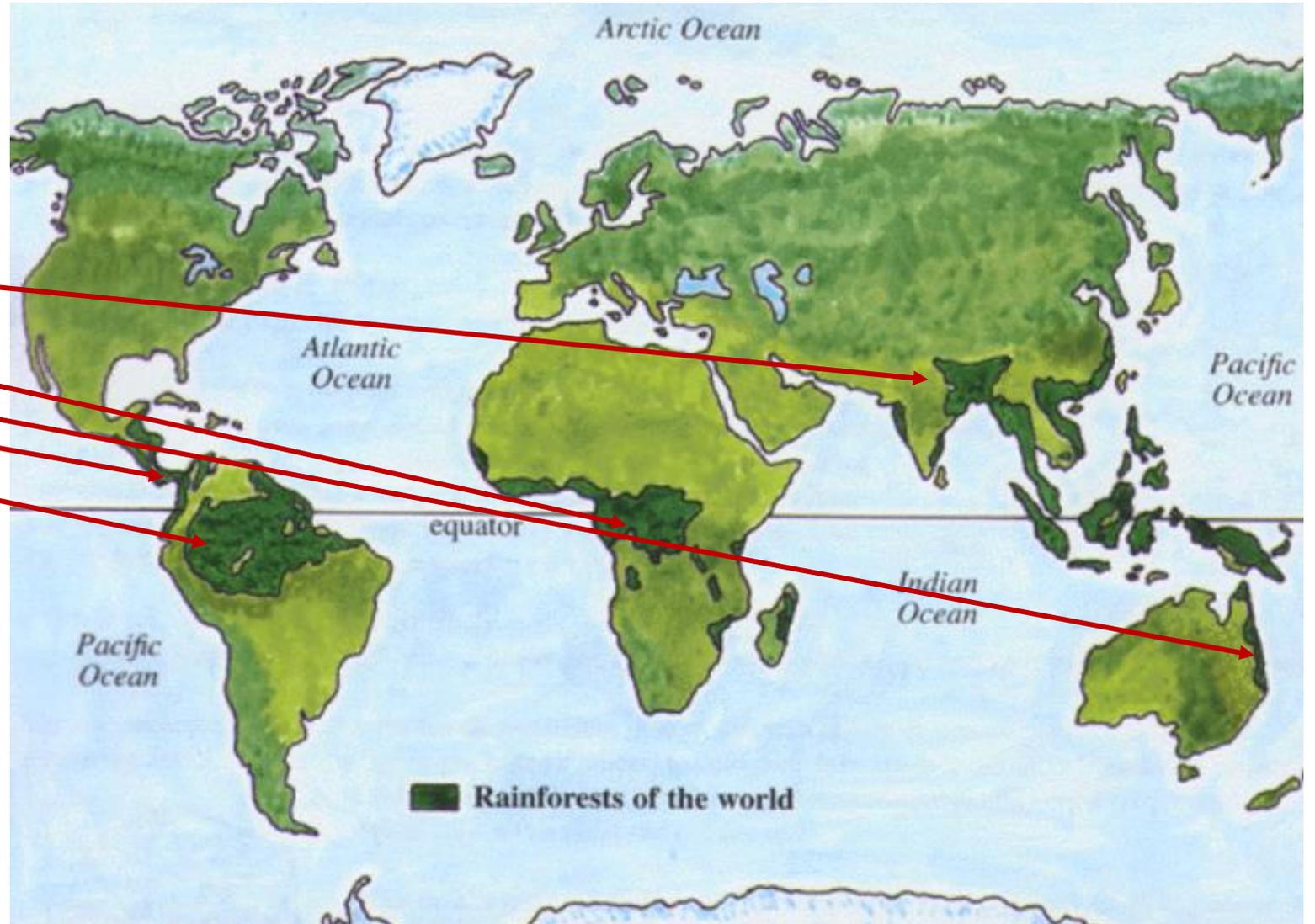


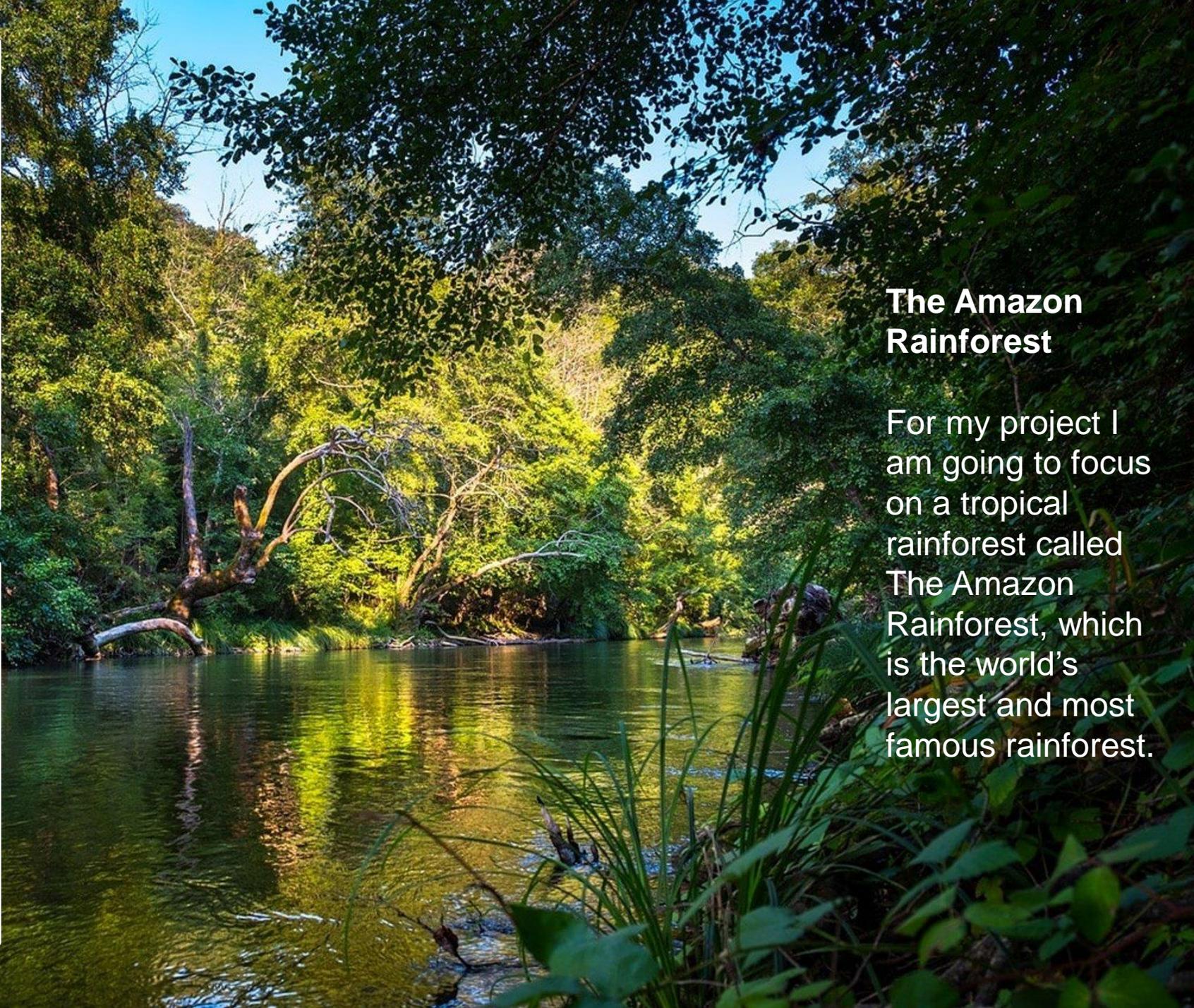
Where can you find Rainforests?

Rainforests are found in

- Asia
- Africa
- Australia
- Central America
- South America

The largest rainforest in the world is the Amazon Rainforest which is in South America.





The Amazon Rainforest

For my project I am going to focus on a tropical rainforest called The Amazon Rainforest, which is the world's largest and most famous rainforest.



The Amazon River Basin

The Amazon River Basin (known as "Amazonia") is 5.5 million km². It covers parts of eight South American countries:

- Brazil
- Bolivia
- Peru
- Ecuador
- Colombia
- Venezuela
- Guyana
- Suriname



The basin is drained by the Amazon River, the world's largest river. It is crisscrossed by thousands of rivers.



Heliconia flowers



orchids



Cocoa plants



Giant water lily



Passion flowers

Plants in the Amazon Rainforest

The Amazon is home to more species of plants than any other ecosystem on the planet. Here are some of the coolest plants that can be found in the Amazon Rainforest.



Rubber trees



Bromelade flowers



Venus Fly Traps



Banana Trees



Coffee plants



Jaguar



Sloth



Poison dart frog



Piranhas



Capybaras

Animals in the Amazon Rainforest

The Amazon is home to more species of animals than any other ecosystem on the planet. Here are some of the most amazing animals that can be found in the Amazon Rainforest.



Spider Monkey



Anaconda



Black Caiman



Electric Eel

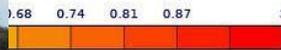
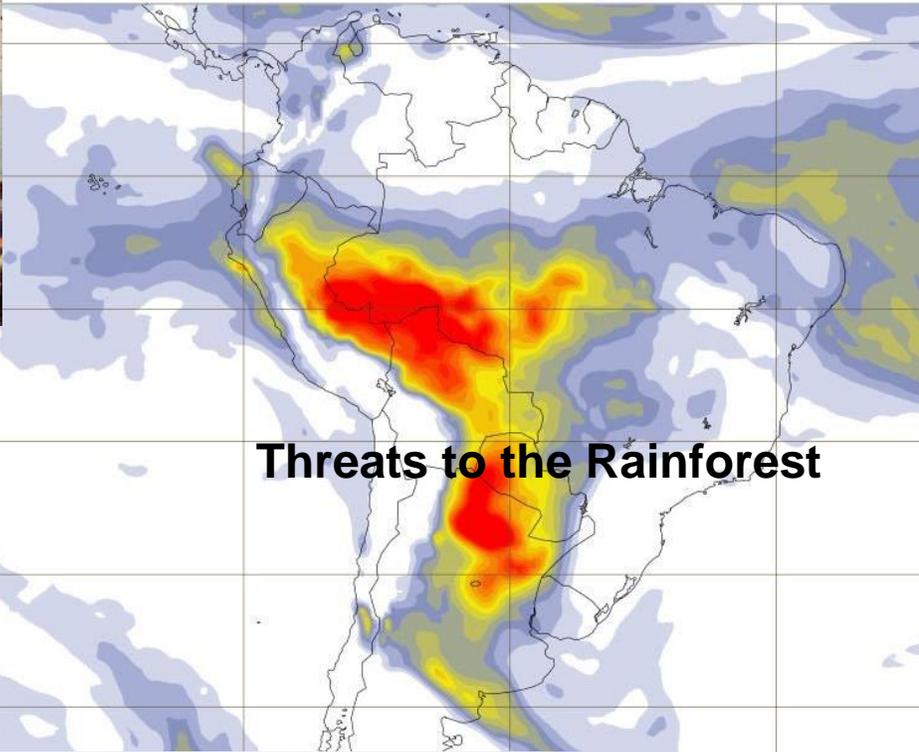


Scarlet Macaw



Fires: Forest fires happen in the Amazon during the dry season between July and October. They can be caused by naturally occurring events, like lightning strikes, but in 2019 most are thought to have been started by farmers and loggers clearing land for crops or grazing.

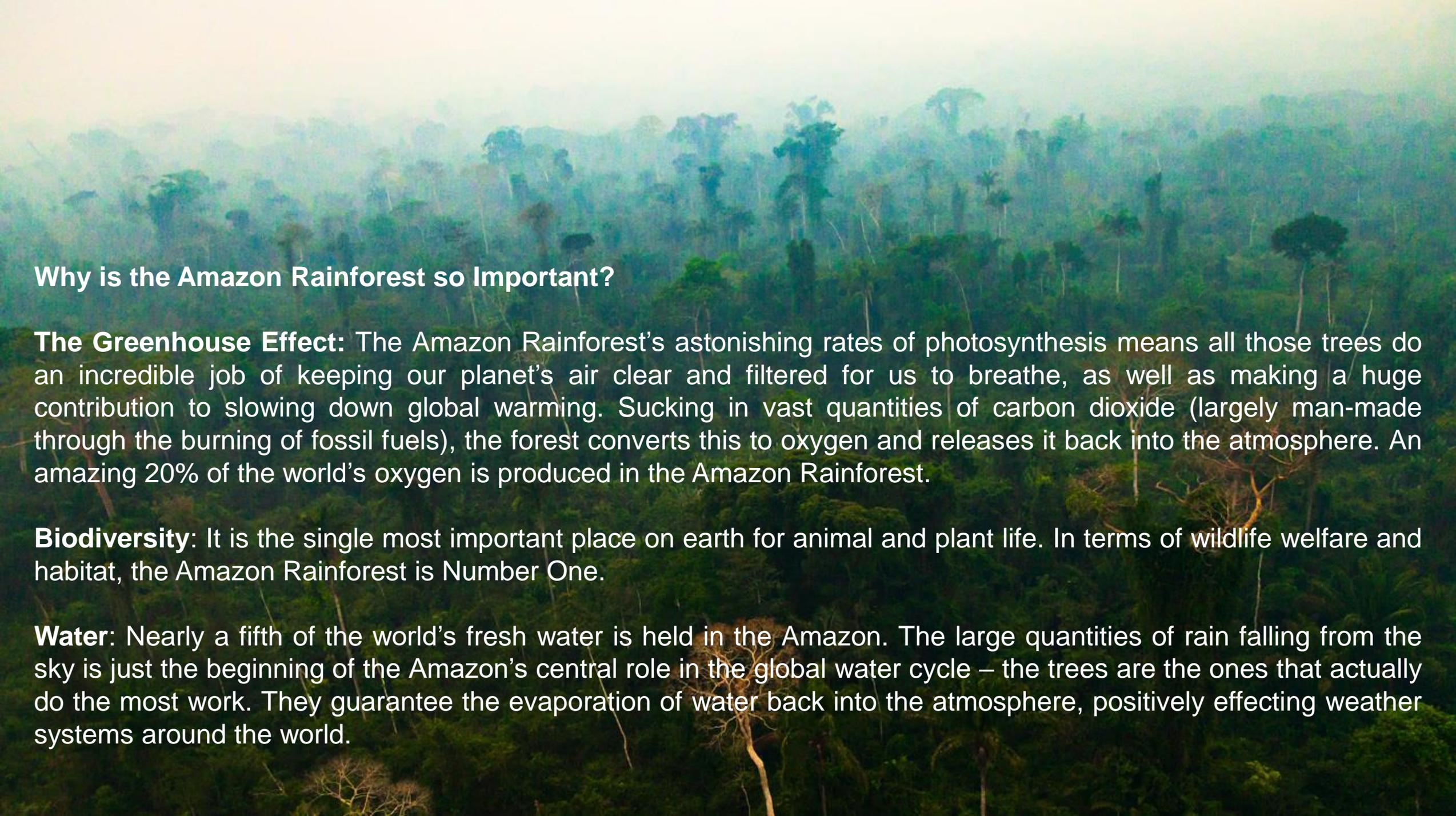
Deforestation: The cutting down of trees has caused massive damage to the extent and health of the jungle, and continues to threaten its status as an impossibly valuable resource and habitat. The main threat comes from cattle ranching. Some 15% of all the Earth's greenhouse gas emissions are caused by aggressive deforestation.



Ranching & Agriculture: Rainforests around the world are continuously cut down to make room for raising crops, particularly soy, and cattle farming



Commercial Fishing: Fish are the main source of food and income for many Amazonian people, but commercial fishing threatens the wildlife and habitat.

An aerial photograph of a vast, dense Amazon rainforest. The trees are a mix of various shades of green, and the forest extends to the horizon under a hazy, overcast sky. The perspective is from a high vantage point, looking down and across the canopy.

Why is the Amazon Rainforest so Important?

The Greenhouse Effect: The Amazon Rainforest's astonishing rates of photosynthesis means all those trees do an incredible job of keeping our planet's air clear and filtered for us to breathe, as well as making a huge contribution to slowing down global warming. Sucking in vast quantities of carbon dioxide (largely man-made through the burning of fossil fuels), the forest converts this to oxygen and releases it back into the atmosphere. An amazing 20% of the world's oxygen is produced in the Amazon Rainforest.

Biodiversity: It is the single most important place on earth for animal and plant life. In terms of wildlife welfare and habitat, the Amazon Rainforest is Number One.

Water: Nearly a fifth of the world's fresh water is held in the Amazon. The large quantities of rain falling from the sky is just the beginning of the Amazon's central role in the global water cycle – the trees are the ones that actually do the most work. They guarantee the evaporation of water back into the atmosphere, positively effecting weather systems around the world.



Reduce your paper and wood consumption

Reduce your own wood and paper use. For example, use both sides of each piece of paper, use your own cloth bags at the grocery store, use cloth napkins and towels, and avoid disposable paper plates and cups.

Avoid Palm Oil

Palm oil, found in half of all processed foods and many common household products is a key contributor to rainforest deforestation! Read your food and product labels carefully and refuse to buy products with palm oil or insist on sustainable alternatives.



Reduce your beef consumption

Rainforest beef is typically found in fast food hamburgers or processed beef products. Reducing your consumption of beef will reduce demand for it, cutting back on the pressure to clear more forests for cattle.

Choose Environmentally Responsible Products

It is best to buy less. When you do buy products, try and choose ones that are environmentally friendly and organic. Also, you can choose companies that donate to environmental causes or that plant new trees each time they cut one down.



Ways that we can Help Protect the Rainforests

Hold businesses accountable

Corporations need to know that the public will hold them accountable for business practices that are socially or environmentally destructive. If you feel that a company's business practices are environmentally irresponsible, send the company a letter expressing your concern and stop buying products or using services of that company.



Reduce your oil consumption

The burning of oil, gas, and coal is the primary cause of climate change, a trend that is threatening the stability of the global climate. Whenever possible, leave your car at home and instead walk, ride your bike, or take local transportation.

Conclusion

We are the future. Our lifestyle choices and decision-making processes will have a huge impact on the world's rainforests. They play a huge part of sustaining our planet. It is our responsibility as children to learn as much as we can about the importance of the rainforests and encourage people to live in a way that doesn't hurt their environment.

The rainforests are ours to protect.

