

Year 9 Geography Learning Outcomes

Unit 1: The Living World – Tropical Rainforests

- Definition of an ecosystem and key terms relating to ecosystems.
- A pond as an example of small-scale ecosystem in the UK that features producers, consumers, decomposers, nutrient cycling and food webs.
- The impact on the ecosystem of changing one component.
- The distribution and main characteristics of large-scale global ecosystems (biomes).
- How vegetation and animals have adapted to the physical conditions of a tropical rainforest.
- Climatic and soil characteristics of a tropical rainforest.
- Rainforest food webs.
- Deforestation – description of changing rates and patterns.
- Causes of deforestation in the Amazon Case Study (subsistence and commercial farming, logging, road building, mineral extraction, energy development, settlement and population growth).
- Impacts of deforestation in the Amazon Case Study (economic development, soil erosion, decline of and conflicts with indigenous tribes, climate change).
- Global importance of the rainforest to people and the environment.
- Should development take place in the Amazon? A decision-making exercise based on positive and negative socio-economic and environmental impacts of deforestation.
- Ways to sustainably manage the rainforest – ecotourism, selective logging and replanting, education and conservation, debt reduction, international agreements on use of tropical hardwoods.

Unit 2: The Living World – Hot Deserts

- Climatic and soil characteristics of a Hot Desert.
- How vegetation and animals have adapted to the physical conditions of a Hot Desert.
- Hot Desert case study featuring opportunities for economic development through commercial farming, mining/mineral extraction, tourism and energy and the challenges of extreme temperatures, water supply and inaccessibility.
- Definition of desertification, its causes (climate change, population growth, removal of fuel wood, over-grazing and over-cultivation, soil erosion).
- Social and environmental effects of desertification in the Sahel.
- Ways in which the risk of desertification can be reduced through stone lines and Acacia tree planting in the Sahel.

Unit 3: Map Skills

- To understand why map symbols are used.
- To be able to identify what certain map symbols mean.
- To understand what 4 figure Grid References are and be able to use them to locate places.
- To understand what 6 figure Grid References are and be able to use them to locate places.
- To understand what latitude and longitude are and how they work.
- To be able to use both to locate places on a map and in an atlas.
- To know the main and intermediate points of the compass rose
- To be able to use direction on maps
- To understand what 'scale' is and why maps have a scale.
- To understand and be able to use a Linear Scale.
- To understand and be able to use 1:25000 and 1:50000 scales.
- To understand how layer colouring works and be able to use it to work out the height of the land.
- To understand the rules of contour lines.
- To be able to use contour lines to work out the height and shape of the land.