

# The Tropical Rainforest

Another name for the Tropical Rainforest is the jungle. The Rainforest biome is a forest of tall trees that cover about 6% of the earth. It has more species of trees than anywhere else in the world. The Tropical Rainforest receives more rain than any other biome making it the wettest biome. There are two types of rainforests, the lowland forests and the cloud forests. Over half of the world's plant and animal species are found in the Tropical Rainforest. The Tropical Rainforest is also the most threatened biome.

**Location:** The Tropical Rainforests are found near the equator in over 40 countries. The three largest Rainforest areas are found in Central Africa, South East Asia, and Central and South America.

**Weather:** The Tropical Rainforest is known for year round warmth and maintains almost the same temperature year round which is usually above 20°C or 64°F. An average of 125 to 660 cm or 50 to 260 inches of rain falls yearly. Think of warm and wet when referring to the tropical rainforests.

**Seasons:** It feels as though there is just one season as it is rainy and wet most of the time. However, there is a period of reduced rain which is usually in winter and summer. There are four seasons although there is minimal seasonal change. There are also approximately 12 hours of daylight and 12 hours of night every day.

**Animals:** The animals in the Rainforest are too numerous to mention. Scientists believe that they only know of approximately 1% of the Rainforest animals. These include millions of species of birds and hundreds of types of parrots, snakes, monkeys, tigers, rhinos, and of course millions of other species.

**Plants:** Most of the plants in the rainforest are trees, several types of mosses shrubs, vines, orchids and ferns. Very little sun reaches the rainforest floor, therefore the plants that grow there are usually small. Many of our houseplants come from the Rainforest.