

Rainforest Explorer's Field Journal: A Research Template

Learning objective: To identify, describe, and understand the key features and climate zones of tropical rainforests.

Imagine you are travelling with Finn the dolphin as he explores the river systems deep within the Amazon rainforest. Use this field journal to record your scientific findings. Write in full, descriptive sentences and ensure you use the vocabulary provided in the word bank to impress your fellow explorers.

Word bank: Equator · Canopy · Emergent layer · Understorey · Humidity · Precipitation · Biodiversity · Tropical · Deforestation · Ecosystem

1. Location and Climate: Where are most tropical rainforests found in relation to the Equator? Explain how the climate affects the growth of plants in this region. (3 marks)

2. The Four Layers: Choose two of the rainforest layers (e.g., Canopy or Forest Floor) and compare the amount of sunlight each receives. Justify why this creates different habitats for animals. (4 marks)

3. Biodiversity: Define what is meant by 'biodiversity'. Why is the rainforest considered one of the most important ecosystems on Earth? (2 marks)

4. Human Impact: Explain why some parts of the rainforest are being cleared. What might happen to the local wildlife if their habitat is destroyed? (3 marks)

5. Adaptation Analysis: Choose one animal that lives in the rainforest. Describe one physical feature it has and explain how this helps it survive in such a humid environment. (3 marks)

6. Critical Thinking: If you were a scientist studying a new area of the rainforest, what methods would you use to ensure you did not disturb the natural balance of the ecosystem? Justify your answer. (4 marks)

Extension challenge: Design a 'Rainforest Protection Campaign'. Write a persuasive speech or create a poster layout that explains the importance of preserving these biomes. Include the economic value of the rainforest (e.g., medicines and sustainable resources) and suggest two ways that people living thousands of miles away can help protect them.