

Rainforest Explorer's Field Journal: A Study by Finn the Dolphin

Learning objective: To identify, describe, and understand the unique characteristics, climate, and layers of tropical rainforest biomes.

Imagine you are an explorer travelling with Finn the Dolphin to the Amazon rainforest. Use this field journal to record your scientific findings. Write in full sentences, using technical geographical vocabulary where possible.

Word bank: Equator · Canopy · Emergent · Understory · Forest floor · Precipitation · Humidity · Biodiversity · Ecosystem · Deforestation

1. Geographical Location: Explain why most of the world's tropical rainforests are situated near the Equator. Consider the impact of climate and sunlight. (3 marks)

2. Layer Analysis: Describe the unique characteristics of the 'Canopy' layer. Compare this to the conditions found on the 'Forest floor'. (4 marks)

3. Climate Data: Justify why rainforests experience such high levels of precipitation throughout the year. (3 marks)

4. Interdependence: Explain how plants and animals rely on each other within the rainforest ecosystem. Provide a specific example. (3 marks)

5. Human Impact: What might happen to the local climate if large areas of the rainforest were cleared for farming? (4 marks)

6. Critical Thinking: Contrast the biodiversity of a tropical rainforest with a temperate woodland in the UK. Why is the rainforest's variety of life so much greater? (4 marks)

Extension challenge: Design a 'Save the Rainforest' campaign poster. Include a persuasive argument regarding why the world needs rainforests, using at least three pieces of evidence from your research.