Exploring the World's Rainforests

Learning objective: To structure a detailed geographical report on the features, climate, and importance of tropical rainforests.

Use this writing scaffold to help Finn the dolphin map out your report. Answer each section in full sentences, using the word bank to help you link your ideas together.

Tropical rainforests are some of the most fascinating and complex environments on our planet, acting as the Earth's lungs.

Word bank: consequently · furthermore · in addition to · due to · under the canopy · vibrant biodiversity · essential · fragile ecosystem · on the other hand · nevertheless

1. Introduction: Describe where tropical rainforests are located in the world, using terms like 'Equator' and 'Tropics'. Start your paragraph with: 'Located primarily near the Equator, tropical rainforests are found in...' (2 marks)

2. Climate and Layers: Explain the four layers of the rainforest (emergent, canopy, understory, forest floor) and why the climate is so humid. Start with: 'The rainforest structure is divided into four distinct layers, each experiencing...' (3 marks)

3. Biodiversity: Discuss the variety of plants and animals found in these regions. Start with: 'A remarkable characteristic of the rainforest is its incredible biodiversity, which includes...' (3 marks)

4. Human Impact: Explain why rainforests are being cleared and the effect this has on the environment. Start with: 'Unfortunately, human activities such as logging and agriculture have led to...' (3 marks)

5. Conclusion: Summarise why it is vital to protect these areas. Start with: 'In conclusion, preserving our rainforests is essential for the future of our planet because...' (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Imagine you are a scientist working with Finn. Write a short diary entry describing one creature you discovered in the understory layer, focusing on how its physical features help it survive in that specific environment.