

Geography

All Around the World: In the Tropics

Year 4: Lesson 4- Wednesday 3rd February

A vibrant, cartoon-style illustration of a tropical beach. In the foreground, a large palm tree with green fronds and a brown trunk stands on the left. The ocean is a bright blue, with a small boat visible in the distance. A white airplane is flying in the sky on the left. The sky is blue with white clouds. A large, semi-transparent blue circle is centered over the image, containing the title text. The background is a solid green color.

In the Tropics

Aim

- I can compare the climate of the tropics with the UK climate.

Success Criteria

- I can identify the location of the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn.
- I can identify differences between the UK and the tropics.
- I can identify similarities between the UK and the tropics. I can describe the climate in the tropics.

Where Are the Tropics?

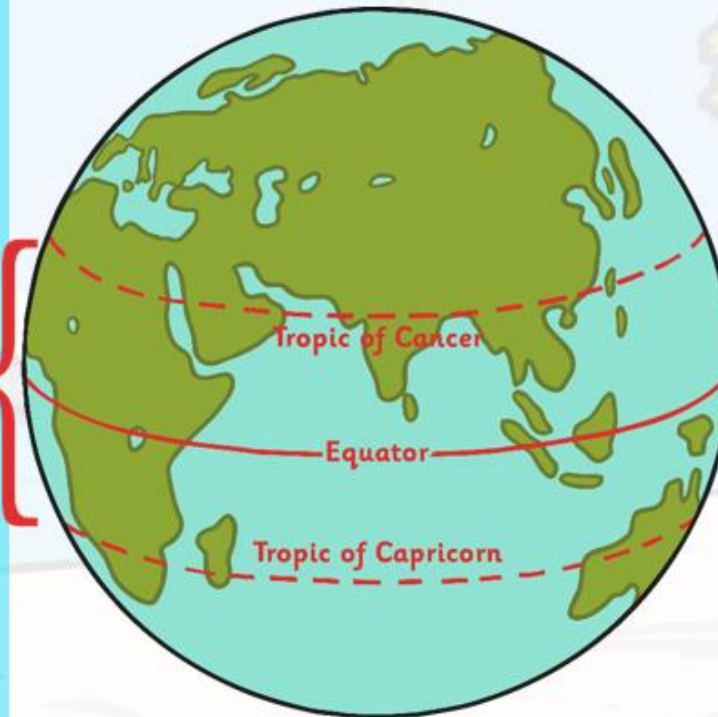
The Tropic of Cancer, or the Northern Tropic, is the circle of latitude on the Earth that marks the most northerly position at which the Sun can be directly overhead.

It currently lies around 23.4° north of the Equator.

The Tropic of Capricorn, or Southern Tropic, marks the most southerly latitude on the Earth at which the Sun can be directly overhead.

It currently lies around 23.4° south of the Equator.

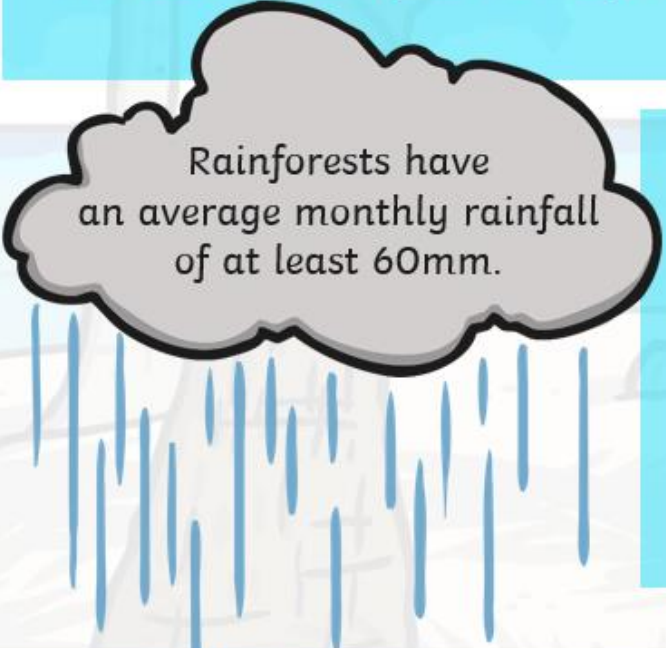
The
Tropics



What Is It like in the Tropics?

Between the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn, the weather is hot all year round.

Rainfall can be very varied in tropical locations – some areas have very little rain, some have a rainy season and some have fairly consistent rainfall throughout the year.



Rainforests have an average monthly rainfall of at least 60mm.

Lets find out more about these habitats:

tropical rainforests;

tropical coniferous forests;

tropical dry forests;

tropical grasslands.



Tropical Rainforests

Tropical rainforests are located in South America, Africa and Southeast Asia. These areas are constantly warm and experience an average precipitation* of *at least* 60mm every month. There is no dry season in these forests. Due to this climate, the tropical rainforests are lush and full of life. The world's tropical rainforests are home to over 15 million species of plants and animals. Look carefully, and you might spot the breath-taking Blue Morpho Butterfly or the Scarlet Macaw fluttering through the trees, or even the Brown-Throated Three-Toed Sloth hanging around in the canopy.



*Precipitation – water falling from the sky as rain, sleet, snow or hail.



Tropical Coniferous Rainforests

Tropical coniferous rainforests are mostly found in North and Central America, but there are some in Asia. They take their name from the huge range of conifer trees that grow in these areas. Conifers are trees that grow cones, such as pine trees and Douglas firs.

Temperatures in tropical coniferous forests are usually steady throughout the year and precipitation levels are low.

These forests are home to many birds and butterflies that have left cooler climates to spend the winter months here (migrate). The trees overhead provide a heavy canopy, or cover, which means that it is dark on the forest floor. Many fungi and ferns grow here.





Tropical Dry Forests

Tropical dry forests grow in many locations around the world, including southern Mexico, central Brazil and along the coasts of Ecuador and Peru, Southeast Asia and in India.

These forests, like tropical rainforests, are warm all year round and can receive several thousands of millimetres of rainfall each year. However, unlike tropical rainforests, tropical dry forests also experience long dry seasons.

Most of the trees in these forests are deciduous. This means that in the dry season, their leaves die and drop off, allowing them to conserve their water supply. Animals that are found in these areas include: monkeys, parrots, deer and large cats.





Tropical Grasslands

Tropical grasslands are sometimes referred to as 'savannas'. They are huge areas that are almost completely covered by grasses. They grow between tropical forests, mountains and deserts. Tropical grasslands are found in Africa, Asia, India and Australia.

Although they are hot and generally dry, tropical grasslands can receive between 900mm and 1500mm of rain per year. However, the dry season lasts for up to nine months of the year and because of this, few trees and shrubs can grow in tropical grasslands.

Despite these conditions, many wild animals survive there. For example, in the savannas of Africa, elephants, giraffes, zebras and wildebeest thrive on their diet of grasses, while in Australia, emus live off the grasslands.



Task 1: You are going to prepare and present a weather report.

Before you begin, watch the clip to see how your weather report might look.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gzPA-YKJmVk>

Tropical Weather Areas		
Cairns, Queensland, Australia (Tropical monsoon climate)	Lagos, Nigeria (Tropical savannah climate)	Singapore (Tropical rainforest climate)
Honolulu, Hawaii, USA (Tropical savannah climate)	Jakarta, Indonesia (Tropical monsoon climate)	Innisfail, Australia (Tropical rainforest climate)

1) Choose one of the tropical weather areas from above.



2) Use the sheet to help plan out the information you will need for your report. You can print from the home learning page or copy down the questions.

Tropical Weather Report

I can compare the climate of the tropics with the UK climate.

Where are you reporting from?	What is the highest temperature today?	What is the lowest temperature today?
What is the weather like today?	What is the wind speed and direction today?	Is today's weather normal for this time of year?
How does the weather compare to yesterday?	What is the weather expected to be like next week?	How does the weather compare to tomorrow?

Where is your city located? Mark it on this world map so you know where to point when you give your forecast.



Now you're ready to prepare your forecast.

Think about:

- How you will introduce your forecast
- What facts you will share
- Where you will need to point on your map
- How you will sum up your report

Task 2: Present your weather report to your family.

Use the information you have gathered and write your script for what you are going to say throughout your report.



You can draw pictures to use in your weather report or you could use a power point presentation.



I hope you had
fun today being
a weather
presenter!

