



Castle Hill Primary School Knowledge Organisers		Year 4 Spring 2 The Rainforest	
Equator	An imaginary line around the middle of the Earth. Understand that tropical rainforests are located along the equator, due to the amount of sunshine and rainfall these areas have.	Reasons for Deforestation Understand that forests are cut down for two reasons: 1. So that the wood from trees can be sold, as it is a valuable natural resource. 2. To clear land for farming. Cattle grazing: this provides meat for restaurants and supermarkets. Crops: such as sugar cane and palm oil. Every 20 minutes, an area of rainforest the size of 20 football pitches is cut down. If this rate continues, there will be no rainforests in 100 years.	Rainforests of the World Map 
deforestation	The destruction of trees in a large area.		
forest floor	The last layer of the rainforest is the forest floor layer. This layer is dark, humid, and hot. Only 5% of the sunlight makes it to the forest floor. A carpet of dead leaves forms the base of this dim and shady layer. The lack of sunlight means fewer plants grow here.		
understory	The understory layer is located beneath the canopy. The understory does not get much sunlight. It is dark and humid here. Leafy bushes and small trees entwined with vines make up this layer.		
canopy	The canopy layer is located under the emergent layer. This is the dense leafy layer with trees about 40 metres tall. They spread their branches out to catch most of the sunlight and rain. There is plenty of food and shelter in this layer.		
emergent	This is the top layer of the rainforest. These are the tallest trees in the rainforest and can reach 70 metres tall. They have huge leafy crowns that spread out to catch as much sunlight as possible. It is hot, wet, and windy in the emergent layer.		
habitat	The natural environment where an animal or plant normally lives.	Rainforest Animals	
biome	Understand that a biome is a region with specific plants and animals and there are lots of different biomes in the world. Understand that environment, climate, vegetation and terrain determine what kind of biome an area is.	Macaw (bird) Long tailed, colourful type of parrot. 	Tapir (herbivorous mammal) Similar in shape to a pig. Tapirs live in South America near water and have long snouts. 
indigenous	Belonging to the country in which they are found, rather than being brought there from another country.	Poison dart frog (amphibian) Colourful frog with toxins in their skin. The skin is brightly coloured to keep predators away. 	Jaguar (carnivorous mammal) The biggest predator in the Amazon Rainforest. Usually a lone, nocturnal hunter which leaps on its prey from above. 
tribe	A group of people who live together, sharing the same language, culture, and history.	Piranha (fish) These sharp-toothed meat-eating fish can devour cattle and even humans. Attacks are rare. 	Sloth (mammal) Moves very slowly through the trees, so not to attract attention. Very endangered. 
agriculture	The science of farming and the methods that are used to raise and look after crops and animals.		
Settlement	A settlement is where people have come to live and have built their homes. Understand that settlements are often located near to natural resources. Understand that settlements can have different functions.		