

An aerial photograph of a lush tropical rainforest. The forest is dense with various shades of green, indicating a rich canopy. A large, irregularly shaped gap in the canopy is visible in the center-left, showing a lighter green area where the trees are shorter or missing. The background shows a hazy horizon under a bright sky.

# The Tropical Rainforest

## Lesson 1

# Biomes

A lush tropical rainforest with dense green foliage and misty mountains in the background. The scene is captured from an elevated perspective, showing a thick canopy of trees and a hazy, mountainous landscape in the distance.

Tropical rainforests are among the most mysterious of all geographical biomes in the world.

A biome is an area with very distinctive plants and animals that have adapted to life in that particular environment.

# Rainforests

- Receive 80 – 100 inches of rain
- Most are 70 – 85 F all year
- Always humid
- Four layers

# Emergent Layer

The emergent layer has:

- Giant trees growing from 100 to 240 feet tall
- Distinct plant and animal life.

# Canopy

- Trees grow up to 130 feet tall
- Covers the rest of the forest
- Branches and trunks are covered with vines
- 90% of the animals live in the canopy

# Understory

- Very shady
- 15% sunlight falls
- Trees up to about 60 feet
- Smaller trees, shrubs, and plants

# Forest Floor

- 2% sunlight falls
- Very little plant life
- Lots of dead plants, flowers, fruit, and branches