Key Concept: Responsibility and Respect

Olá Brazil! Knowledge Organiser

Geographical Vocabulary

rainforest	A dense forest, normally found in tropical areas with high rainfall. They generate much of the world's oxygen.
country	A nation with its own government e.g. UK, USA, Germany
continent	The world's main continuous pieces of land – Africa, Asia, Australasia, Europe, North America, South America, Antarctica
equator	Imaginary line through the middle of the Earth that receives the most sunlight.
Tropic of Cancer/Capricorn	Imaginary lines north and south of the equator. Most rainforests can be found between these two lines.
climate	The weather and temperature usually found in an area over a long period of time.
biome	A large region of Earth that has a certain climate and certain types of living things.
temperate	Places where it is neither very hot nor very cold. Usually has warm summers and cool winters.
tropical	Around the middle of the world in the region called the Tropics where it is warm all year.
biodiversity	The wide range of living things on Earth.
ecosystem	A community of plants and animals that rely on each other to survive.
indigenous	A living thing that belongs naturally to an area.
deforestation	The action of clearing a wide area of trees.
human features	Areas of land which are man-made/synthetic. They are there because of human ideas and actions.
physical features	These are the physical characteristics of the land and are there naturally (mountains, rivers etc.)

Key Information about Brazil

Continent	South America	Capital city	Brasilia
Surrounding waters	Atlantic ocean Amazon river	Main language	Portuguese
Religions followed in Brazil	Christianity, Judaism and Islam.	Population	209.3 million people (2017)
		Other major cities	Sao Paolo, Rio de Janeiro, Porto Alegre, Manaus
Currency	Brazilian real (BRL)	Famous for…	The Amazon jungle, Carnival and 2016 Olympics

Layers and Features of the Rainforest

Emergent Layer	Giant trees that enjoy the most sun but high winds and cold.
Canopy	Dense layer of trees overlapping each other. Home to most animals in rainforests.
Understory	Relatively dark, open area below the canopy.
Undergrowth	Also known as the forest floor, mainly consisting of fallen leaves, fruit etc. that decomposes as food for trees.
Flora & Fauna	Flora = plants; Fauna = animals
Camouflage	Blending in to hide in the natural environment.

Causes of Deforestation

1	To clear space for farming: growing crops (e.g. soya beans & palm oil) and space cattle to generate cheap beef.
2	Chopping down trees for wood.
3	To build roads to mine for metals, gold & diamonds.
4	To dig for oil.
5	To flood areas to make dams & generate electricity.

Impact of Deforestation

1	An area the size of 20 football pitches is destroyed every 60 seconds.
2	½ of the tropical rainforests we had are gone.
3	28,000 species of animals are expected to become extinct in the next 25 years.
4	Local people's homes are destroyed.
5	Levels of carbon dioxide in the air are increasing and oxygen is decreasing.