

## GROUP ACTIVITY: SAVING THE RAINFORESTS

The high rainfall and high average temperatures in the tropical climate create optimum conditions for plants and animals to grow. Tropical rainforests are home to the highest terrestrial biodiversity even though it makes up only 6% of the Earth's land surface. Sadly, we are losing the world's rainforests at an astonishing rate.

In your groups, discuss the causes and effects of deforestation of tropical rainforests around the world. List down the key points in the table provided.

Causes	
Effects	

Name: \_\_\_\_\_



# Living in the Tropics

## Lower Secondary Activity Sheet

### ACTIVITY 1: CLIMATE CHARACTERISTICS

A tropical rainforest is a biome or ecosystem that is mainly found between 10°N and S of the Equator.



(a) Tropical rainforests are located in countries like Singapore. Observe where we are on the map. Identify other countries / regions where tropical rainforests can be found.

(b) The countries identified in (a) share a similar climate that results from their proximity to the Equator. It is these conditions that allow tropical rainforests to thrive. Describe the climate experienced in Singapore.

### ACTIVITY 2: LAYERS OF THE RAINFOREST

(a) The tropical rainforest can be divided into five distinct layers according to height. Label the five layers in the image here.



(b) The forest floor is damp and warm, so decomposition takes place very rapidly in this layer. The plants compete to absorb the nutrients released by this process. Any remaining nutrients that are not absorbed are eventually washed away by rain, leaving behind a very shallow layer of infertile soil.

Find the Kapok tree, a type of emergent, at the Secret Life of Trees. Observe the roots of this tree. What type of roots does it have and how do you think these are adapted to the conditions of the soil in the tropical rainforest?

(c) Proceed to the Understorey. As you stand under the canopy of trees here, describe the characteristics of this layer of a rainforest.