

# **AQA Geography GCSE**

## Tropical Rainforests

### Glossary of Definitions

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## Glossary of Definitions - Tropical Rainforests

**Biodiversity** - A large variety of animal and plant life living in the same ecosystem.

**Buttress roots** - Large, thick tree roots that grow above the ground in tropical rainforests.

**Camouflage** - An animal adaptation where animals purposefully look like their surroundings to hide from predators.

**Canopy** - The layer of a tropical rainforest where the tops of trees touch, forming a dense area of vegetation.

**Carbon sink** - Something that absorbs more carbon dioxide than it emits, causing a net loss of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

**Cattle ranching** - The rearing of cows on large areas of land, usually to produce meat to sell for a profit.

**Clear felling** - A form of logging where all trees in an area are cut down.

**Commercial farming** - Agriculture that is intended to create surplus produce to sell for a profit.

**Debt-for-nature swaps** - Agreements where one country reduces the amount of debt owed by another country in return for the owing country putting efforts into environmental conservation.

**Decomposers** - Organisms that break down organic material and release the nutrients back into the ecosystem.

**Deforestation** - The permanent (and usually large-scale) removal of trees.

**Drip-tip** - An adaptation of a leaf where the end of the leaf is tapered, allowing rainwater to drip off.

**Ecotourism** - Tourism that aims to have reduced environmental impact and supports conservation efforts, making it sustainable.

**Epiphytes** - Plants that live on the surface of other plants, receiving nutrients from these plants.

**Hydroelectric power** - Energy harnessed from the movement of water.

**Interdependence** - The concept of multiple things depending on each other for survival.

**Latosol** - An iron-rich, infertile soil found in tropical rainforests.

**Leaching** - A process in soils where minerals are washed away by water (usually rainfall).

**Lianas** - Woody vines found in tropical rainforests; their roots grow on the forest floor, but the vines stretch high into the canopy.

**Logging** - The process of cutting down trees for wood.



**Nutrient Cycling** - The movement of nutrients between organic and inorganic components of an ecosystem.

**Plantations** - Farms where crops are grown in large amounts with the intention to sell for a profit.

**Selective logging** - A form of logging where only certain trees are cut down to reduce the environmental effects of logging.

**Subsistence farming** - Agriculture that is intended to produce only enough food for the farmer and their family to eat.

**Transmigration** - A government scheme that aims to move people from overpopulated urban areas to underpopulated rural areas.

**Tropical rainforest** - A warm, wet, biodiverse ecosystem located within the Tropics.

**Understory** - The layer of a tropical rainforest that lies beneath the canopy but above the forest floor.

