

Unit 1: Living with the physical environment

Section B: Living World

Topic: Ecosystems (1)

Unit content: RAG the following throughout, or at the end of the unit.	R	A	G
Ecosystems exist at a range of scales and involve the interaction between biotic and abiotic components.			
An example of a small scale UK ecosystem to illustrate the concept of interrelationships within a natural system. (e.g.			
An understanding of:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> producers, consumers, decomposers 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> food chain 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> food web 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> nutrient cycling 			
The balance between components. (producers, consumers, decomposers)			
The impact on the ecosystem of changing one component.			
An overview of the distribution and characteristics of large scale natural global ecosystems.			
Tropical rainforest ecosystems have a range of distinctive characteristics.			
The physical characteristics of a tropical rainforest			
The interdependence of climate, water, soils, plants, animals and people.			
How plants and animals adapt to the physical conditions.			
Issues related to biodiversity			
Deforestation has economic and environmental impacts.			
Changing rates of deforestation.			
A case study of a tropical rainforest to illustrate:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> causes of deforestation – subsistence and commercial farming, logging, road building, mineral extraction, energy development, settlement, population growth 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> impacts of deforestation – economic development, soil erosion, contribution to climate change. 			
Tropical rainforests need to be managed to be sustainable.			
Value of tropical rainforests to people and the environment.			
Strategies used to manage the rainforest sustainably:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> selective logging and replanting 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> conservation and education 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ecotourism and international agreements about the use of tropical hardwoods 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> debt reduction 			
Unit skills	R	A	G
ICT skills (Word, PowerPoint, Research...)			
Map skills			
High quality literacy skills (can you write with sophisticated fluency?)			
Interpreting data and trends			

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High quality evaluation skills (balanced arguments and your own opinions)			
Ability to think synoptically (using content from a range of topics and units)			
Other:	R	A	G
Understand the meaning of common command words like describe, explain, analyse			
P.E.E.L Technique			