

# South America - The Amazon Rainforest



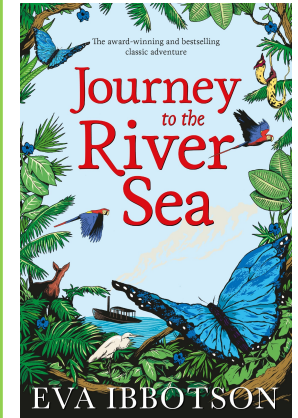
## Key Vocabulary

continent	land mass defined by physical, human, or cultural features: Europe, Africa, Asia, Oceania, North America or South America
Amazon River	the longest river in South America. It flows through Peru, Bolivia, Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador and Brazil.
river basin	the area drained by the river and all of its tributaries
longitude	imaginary vertical line used to measure position on the Earth's surface E-W of the Prime Meridian
latitude	a geographic coordinate that defines the north-south position of a point on the Earth's surface
climate	weather patterns in a place over a long period, such as seasonal rainfall, sunshine and temperatures
rainforest	a luxuriant, dense forest rich in biodiversity, found typically in tropical areas with consistently heavy rainfall.
indigenous	originating or occurring naturally in a particular place; native
deforestation	the action of clearing a wide area of trees.
Equator	imaginary line/circle of latitude around the Earth, midway between North and South Poles, dividing the Earth into Northern and Southern Hemispheres. The equator lies at 0° latitude: at midday the Sun is always high in the sky. Because the sun is never far from being overhead, the Sun's rays are very concentrated and so temperatures are high
Tropic of Cancer	imaginary line/circle about 23.5° north of the equator; the furthest north where the Sun appears directly overhead once a year
Tropic of Capricorn	imaginary line/circle about 23.5° south of the equator; the furthest south that the Sun appears directly overhead once a year



physical features

## Our Class text



South America on the map

## Key knowledge

The Amazon is a vast region that spans nine countries: Brazil, Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, Venezuela, Guyana and Suriname, as well as French Guiana (an overseas territory of France).

The Amazon River Basin is home to the largest rainforest in the world and covers almost 40% of South America.

The Amazon River is the second longest river in the world after the Nile.

The Amazon has a tropical climate, which is typical in areas close to the equator (12 degrees north or south of the equator). There are only two seasons: wet and dry.

More than half of the world's species of plants and animals are found in the rainforests.

Rainforests only cover around 2 percent of the total surface area of the Earth. The Amazon is the largest tropical rainforest.

