Tropical Rain Forest

Description and locations

Tropical rain forests by definition are a regional group of distinguishing plants and mammals, communities that have a large percent of yearly rainfall. The rain forest is split in to 4 parts the emergent, upper canopy, lower canopy and the forest floor. The emergent layer consists of the tallest trees. The upper canopy is the primary level of the rain forest, the upper canopy forms a roof over the rest of the forest. In lower canopy only vary little sunlight reaches, most tress at this level never grow past 12 feet tall. The forest floor is dark and almost no sun reaches it at any time during the day. The Rain Forest receives between 67 and 100 inches of rain fall a year. Rain Forest are mostly located in the tropics between Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn. There are located in Central America, South America, Africa, Southeast Asia, and Australia. The tropical rain forest in Brazil, the amazon, has the largest river in the world

History

The rainforest began to form almost 140 million years ago. Tribal groups have always lived in the rain forest using its resources to provide food, wood, medicine and homes. In the 5th centuries ten million people lived in the rain forest. In the last 100 years the population of people living in the rain forest reduced by 90%. But, there are still tribal groups that live deep within the jungle and have no contact with other humans. The rain forests in Papua New Guinea, Indonesia, and Malaysia are home to hundreds of tribal groups.

Most scientists go into the rain forest looking for new medicines. There are over 1400 plants in the rain forest that have the ability to cure cancer. In the 1800 and the 1900 people came into the rain forest to mine for gold and other minerals. They also cut down trees and sold the land for farming. Although the rain forest soil has little nutrients deforestation has become a big problem, countries like Brazil are losing 50,000 sq km of forest a year. Indonesia is losing 12,000 sq km a year. Also, in 1986 2 dozen species went extinct every day.

Water amounts

The rain forest receives about 12 hours of sunlight everyday and rains almost every day during the wet season. Rain forests have only two seasons a dry season and a wet season. It has high humidity levels at 77% to 88%. The rain forest contains 1/5 of the world’s fresh water. Half of the rain that falls on the rain forest comes from the Atlantic Ocean the other half comes from the rain forest if self.