

# Tropical Rainforests

“South America Unit”



X = take notes

# What is a Rainforest?



X



**Simply...a forest  
that receives more  
than 78 inches of  
rain in a year**

**X**

# Where are Rainforests?



**We have 4 Major Rainforest  
Regions on Earth**

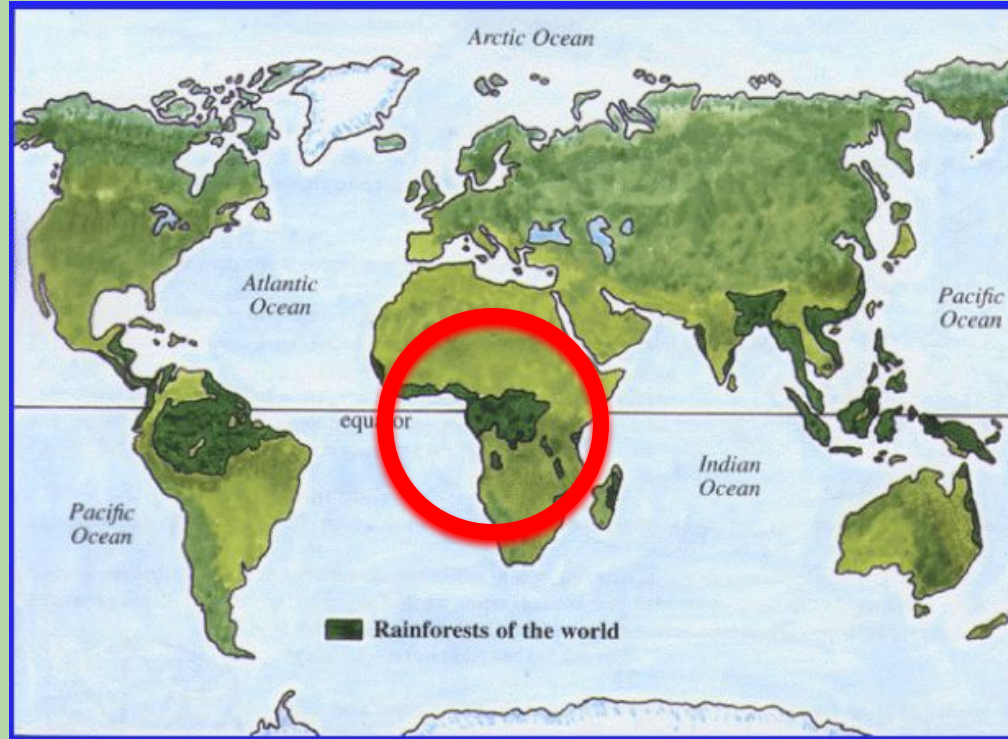
**X**

# 1) Amazon Basin (South America)



X

## 2) Congo and Niger River Basin (Africa)



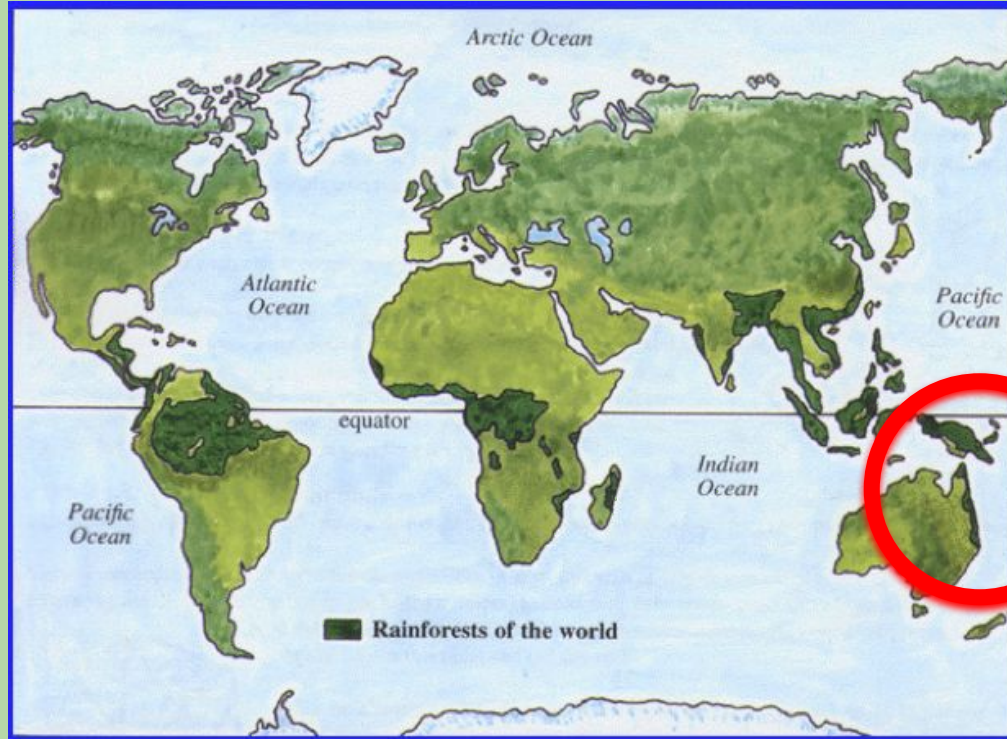
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### 3) Mekong River Basin (SE Asia)



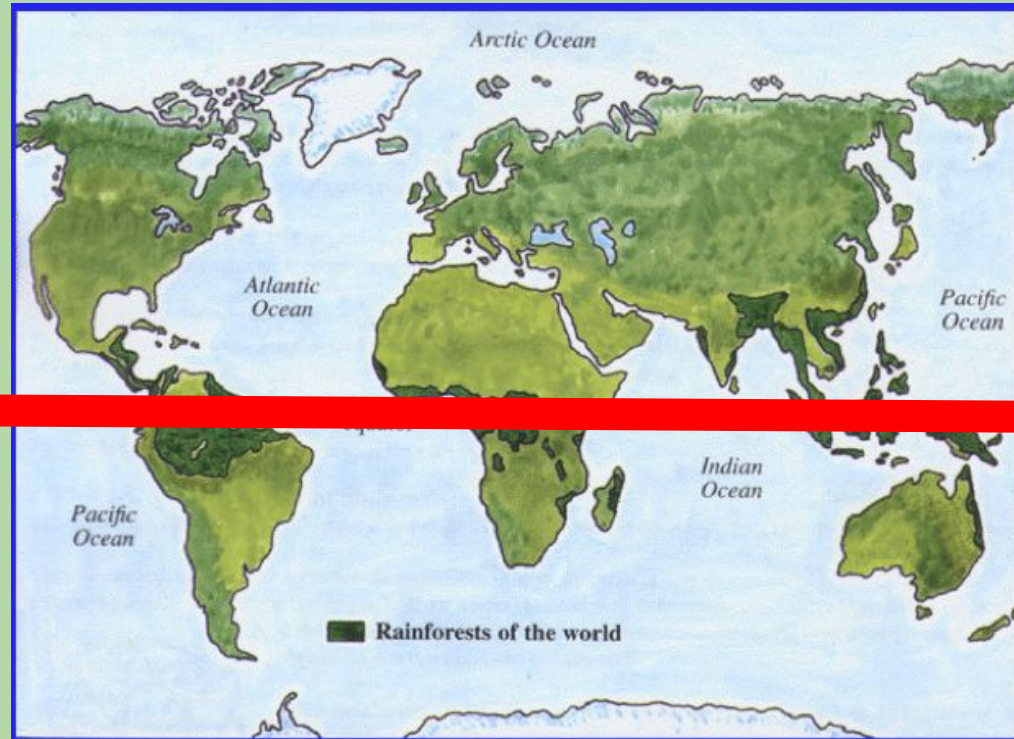


## 4) Islands of Oceania (South Pacific Is.)



X

Forests are generally found in a large belt around the equator...why?



Rainforest are centered around the Equator  
due to **HIGH** Temps, **TONS** of rain, and a  
**LONG** growing season!

**X**



# Why do we need Rainforests?

X

Important because...

**Rainforests are the World's key  
storehouse to biodiversity!**

X

...and that means?



biodiversity

Rainforests are...(speaking for BioDiversity)



Home to 50% of known plant and animal species

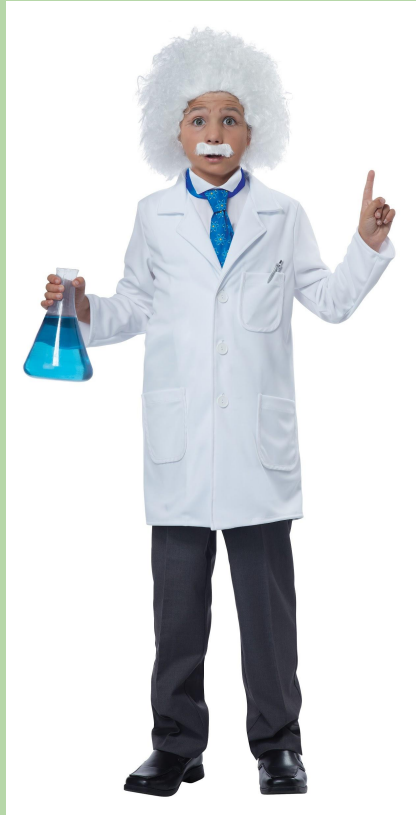


# Rainforests...(speaking for BioDiversity)



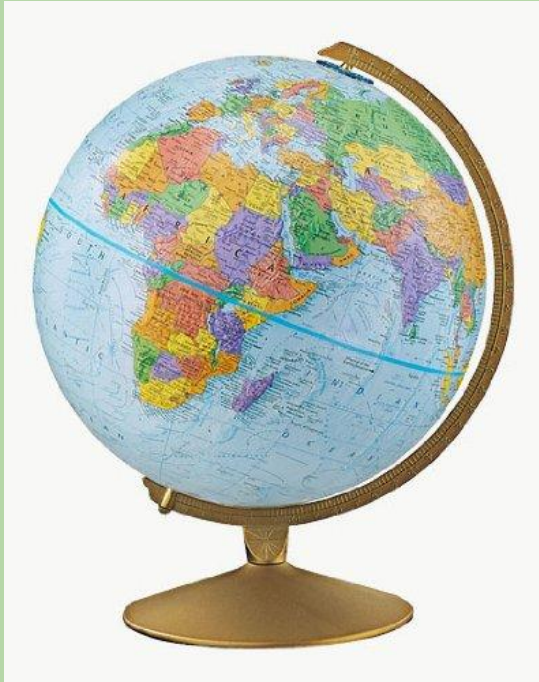
1/2 of all  
medicines  
originated from  
plants and  
animals in R.F.

# Rainforests are...(speaking for BioDiversity)



Less than 1% of plants/animals have been tested for medical values

# Rainforests are...(speaking for BioDiversity)



Cover only 2%  
of the globe

Rainforests are...(Disappearing)

**200,000 acres** of rainforest are burned every day. That is more than **150 acres** lost every minute of every day.



# AMAZON DEFORESTATION

# Extinction

Name first thing that comes to mind?



# Dinosaur

FYI - gone  
FOREVER

During Dinosaur Times...the earth lost 1 species  
every 1,000 year

We currently lose 140 species A DAY!  
*(this is mainly due to current R.F. destruction rates)*



# WHY???

- 1) Cattle Ranches (Beef)
- 2) Commercial Logging (Wood/Paper)
- 3) Plantations for Cash Crops (Fruit)
- 4) Growing illegal drugs (Cocaine)
- 5) Mining Operations and...

# 6

TO SAVE OUR WAY  
OF LIFE

Who are the Stakeholders?