

## Key Terms

Ecosystems	An ecosystem is a natural unit made up of living things (plants and animals) and non- living things (soil, rocks and climate), i.e. the environment they live in.
Environment	The air, water, soil and the climate of an area.
Weather	<b>Weather</b> is the day to day condition of the atmosphere. This includes temperature, rainfall and wind.
Climate	Climate is the <b>average weather</b> in a place. It tells you what the weather is usually like by <b>measuring the weather</b> of a long period and <b>calculating an average</b>
Polar Regions	This is the area which is above 60° North and South of the Equator. The climate is extreme cold and low precipitation. The ice caps dominate the environment.
Adaptation	This is when a plant or animal becomes better suited to their environment and climate.
Endangered Animals	An <b>endangered species</b> is any type of plant or animal that is in danger of disappearing forever. If a <b>species</b> , or type, of plant or animal dies out completely, it becomes extinct.
Human Environment	<b>Human</b> have impact every area of the earth, but in varying ways. This could be an urban area or it can a natural area which has been affected by human activity.
Deciduous Woodland	Deciduous woodlands contain <b>trees</b> with <b>broad leaves</b> such as oak. They occur in places with <b>high rainfall</b> , <b>warm summers</b> and <b>cooler winters</b> and lose their leaves in winter.
Meadows	A meadow is any grassland that is maintained by traditional farming practices and which becomes richer and richer with <b>wild flowers</b> over time.
Food Chain	A series of organisms each dependent on the next as a source of food. E.g. Cows depend on grass.
Food Web	A system of interlocking and interdependent food chains.

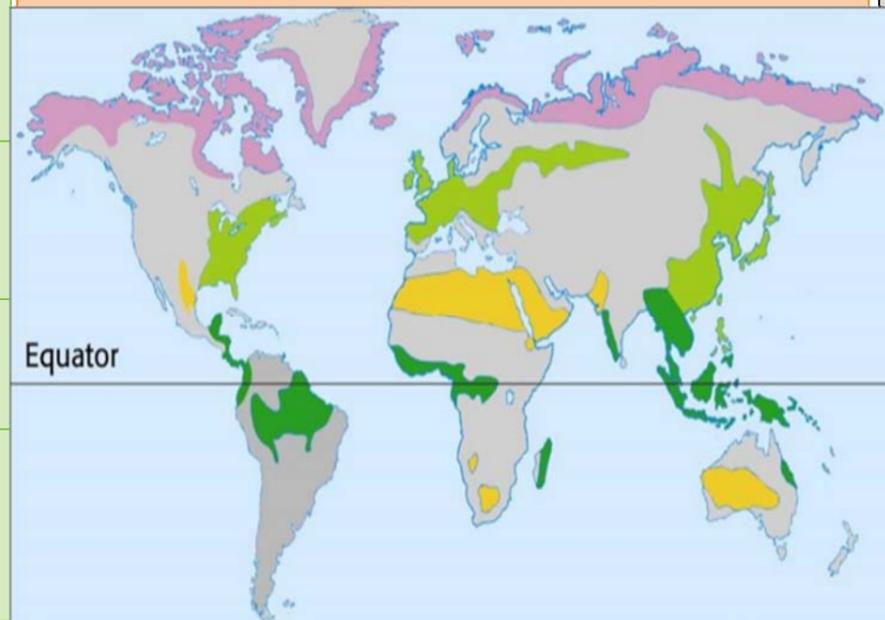
## Adapting Animals

### Natural Animal Adaptations

- Animals naturally adapt to their environment over thousands of years. The penguin has a dense layer of feathers to help insulate themselves against the bitter Antarctic cold.
- Polar bears have naturally adapted to the polar regions by having a white fur. This allows the polar bear to be camouflaged whilst hunting on ice.

### Have animals been successful at adapting to the human environment?

- Animals are adapting to live in the human world.
- One example is the Peregrine Falcon which live in New York city, USA. These incredible birds of prey can fly up to 390km/h!!
- The falcons hunt pigeons whose numbers have swelled as a result of waste produced by humans.
- Most animals are not adapting to the human world and are becoming extinct. One in four mammals are endangered on planet Earth due to humans.
- The sea cow has become extinct due to hunting, fishing and warming sea temperatures.



## Rainforests

### Why is the Amazon rainforests being deforested?

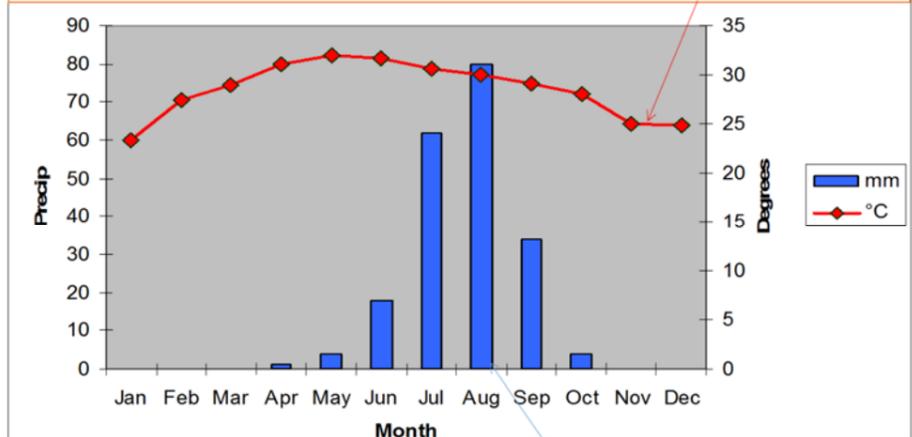
- The Brazilian Amazon rainforests is being deforested for a number of reasons. The major deforester of the rainforest are cattle ranchers. The farmers are cutting down the precious rainforest so that their cattle (cows) can grazing on the land.
- Another reason why the rainforest is being deforested is for wood for furniture, paper and building materials for the growing economy of Brazil.



### How can we protect the rainforest?

- One way to protect the rainforest is for people in richer countries to buy an acre of forest. This means that an acre is protected from loggers or cattle ranchers from buying the land and chopping down all the trees.
- Individuals can help to save the rainforest by buying food which have a green frog from the rainforest alliance (see above).
- Governments can protect areas of land such as the Choco-Andean Rainforest corridor in Ecuador. This protects the rainforest and deforestation is **banned**.
- To stop illegal deforestation Brazil has a special police force called the IBAMA. These police officers use the latest satellite technology, computers and helicopters to stop the deforestation of the Amazon rainforest!

The red line shows us the temperature in degrees Celsius , it uses the right hand axis



The blue bars show us the Precipitation (rain, snow etc) in mm, it uses the left hand axis