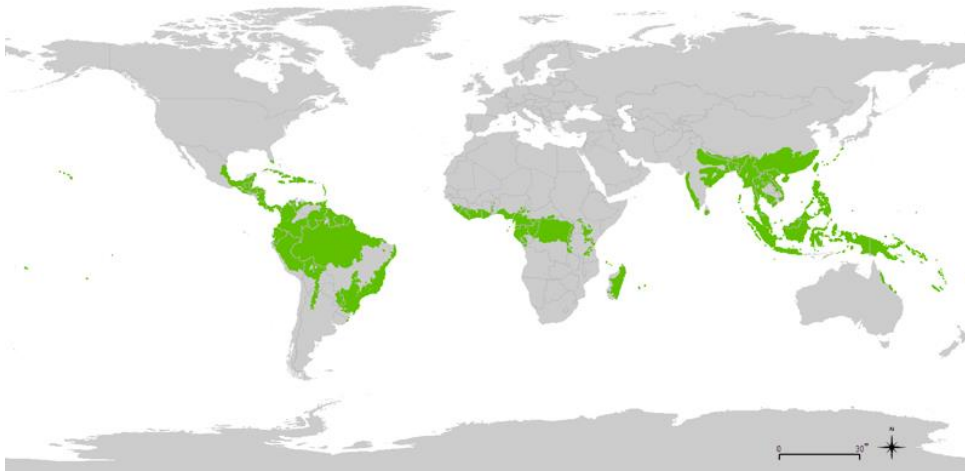


The climate of the tropical rainforest

Tropical rainforests are located between Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn and are shown in green on the map below:

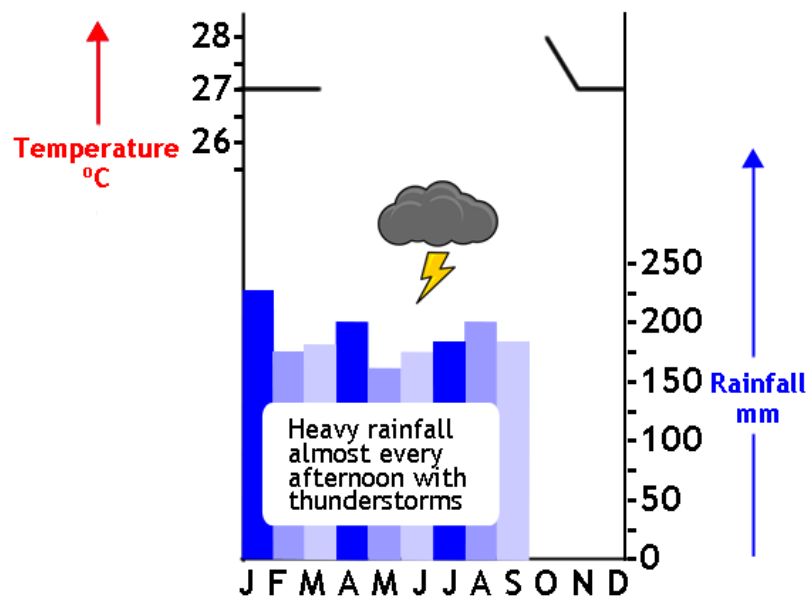


Tropical rainforest map
 Courtesy of Delorme, 2012
http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:800px-tropical_wet_forests.png

A 'typical' rainforest climate

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
TEMPERATURE °C	27	27	27	28	28	27	27	26	27	28	27	27
RAINFALL mm	225	175	180	200	165	175	185	200	185	210	230	230

A 'typical' rainforest climate graph:



Description of the tropical rainforest climate

The climate graph of the tropical rainforest shows that it is [hot and wet/warm and dry] all year. The maximum temperature is [26 °C/28 °C] and occurs in [March/October]. The minimum temperature occurs in [August/December] and is [21 °C/26 °C]. The range of temperature is only [2 °C/8 °C]. Temperatures average about [20 °C/27 °C] throughout the year.

Most months have at least [50 mm/170 mm] of rain. The amount of rainfall remains more or less the same throughout the year. The annual rainfall total is over [2000 mm/5000 mm]. The rain normally falls in the afternoon in the form of heavy [downpours/light drizzle]. The graph shows that the climate hardly varies at all throughout the year and there are [four seasons/no seasons], as we know them.

Student tasks

1. Copy the 'typical' rainforest climate table into your folder.
Remember to use a ruler.
2. Copy the 'typical' rainforest climate graph into your folder.
Remember to use a ruler and pencil.
3. **The typical rainforest graph** is not finished...
Use the information from the rainforest climate table to complete your graph.
Remember - temperature is always shown with a line and rainfall is always shown by columns.
4. Copy the '**description of the tropical rainforest climate**' inserting the correct 'heads or tails' into your paragraph.

Extension tasks

1. Using the **climate table**, calculate the total **annual rainfall** i.e. how much rain falls in a year.
Answer mm
2. Research climate graphs for three additional locations in the tropical rainforest. List these three locations. How do they compare to the typical rainforest climate?

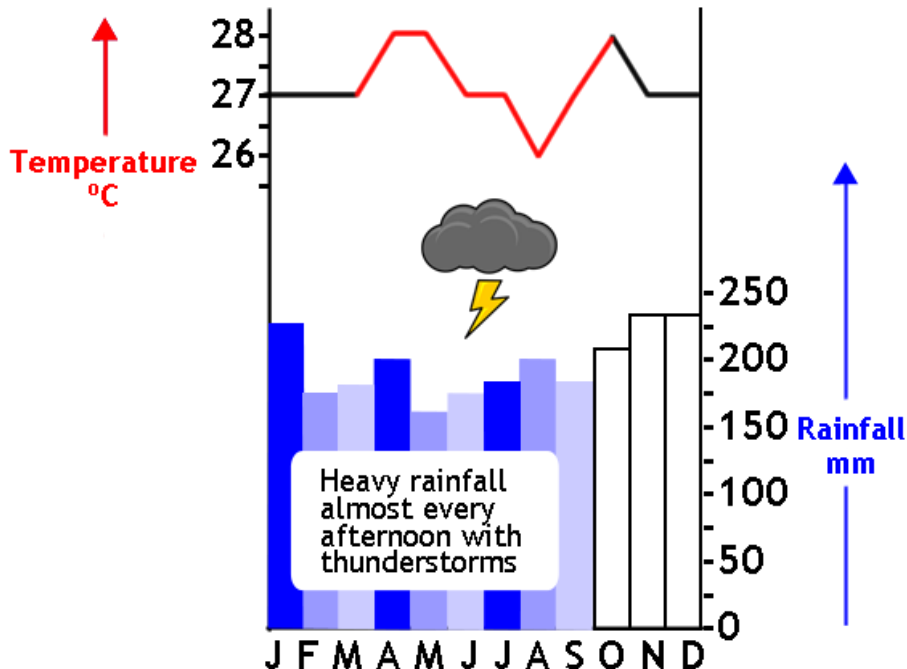
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Teaching notes

A 'typical' rainforest climate graph:



Description of the tropical rainforest climate

The climate graph of the tropical rainforest shows that it is **hot and wet** all year. The maximum temperature is **28°C** and occurs in **March**. The minimum temperature occurs in **August** and is **26°C**. The range of temperature is only **2°C**. Temperatures average about **27°C** throughout the year.

Most months have at least **170 mm** of rain. The amount of rainfall remains more or less the same throughout the year. The annual rainfall total is over **2,000 mm**.

The rain normally falls in the afternoon in the form of heavy **downpours**. The graph shows that the climate hardly varies at all throughout the year and there are **no seasons**, as we know them.

Extension tasks

1. The total annual rainfall i.e. how much rain falls in a year is **2,360 mm**.
2. Climate graphs:
 - a. A [web search for images](#) provides many examples or
 - b. The website, www.weatherbase.com/weather/weather.php3?s=26719&refer=&units=metric allows students the opportunity to select a location within the tropical rainforest climate zone and research its climate.

Suggested homework exercise

Provide the students with a copy of the climate statistics for London or your own locality.

London												
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
TEMPERATURE °C	7	7	9	11	14	16	19	19	17	13	10	7
PRECIPITATION mm	55	41	42	44	50	45	44	50	49	69	59	55

1. Ask them to draw a climate graph of the temperatures and precipitation for London or the alternative location.
2. Ask them to compare & contrast the typical rainforest climate graph with that of London or the alternative location in the UK.