

**Section 1: The Physical Characteristics of Rainforests.**

**Climate / Distribution**

**Soils / Structure**

- The map on figure one shows that rainforests are mostly found between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn and that they are mainly located in the continents of South America, Africa and Asia .
- No real seasonal temperature differences
- High annual rainfall
- Variations in rainfall
- High level of humidity – ideal conditions for the growth of micro-organisms (bacteria). Required for decomposing.

- High rates of decay return minerals to the soil
- Minerals are rapidly absorbed or washed out – leads to poor soil
- Vertical structure – plants respond to levels of moisture and light.
- Highest biomass (total weight of organisms in a given area.)
- 60%+ world’s biodiversity – Home to 15 million+ species of plants and animals.

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Try to consider what 9 mark questions will be on your assessments.

**Concept**

**How it works**

Trade Corridor	To raise much needed revenue, the road will function as a trade corridor linking goods from the rainforest - logged products and minerals - to the much bigger Brazil Market
Conservation Area	The Peruvian government has deemed that areas of the forest are to be designated as a protected zones where no one but scientists are allowed to venture.
Linking the Urban to the rural	Lima the capital of Peru has a somewhat better quality of life whilst tribes and other rainforest dwellers have a low standard of living. It might be said that encouraging rural - urban migration will help the nation.

**Rainforest Applications**

- Rainforests are important as they have a diversity of animal and plant species. Increased biodiversity of plants and animals means that it plays an important role in attracting tourists and therefore is necessary in order to develop the country.
- In addition, tropical rainforests are important for worldwide health as they provide a wide range of medicinal drugs derived from both plants and animals.

**Section C: Stakeholders**

Peruvian Government	The authority who rules over the country has the power to tax and determine laws. Their developmental priorities are about increasing economic growth and raising standards of living.
Businesses	Logging industries work at processing products from the forest such as paper and wood. A separate medicinal sector looks to analyse the biodiversity of the area and utilise plants for medicinal purposes.
Tribes	The native people of Peru have inhabited the forest for thousands of years and have a hunter gatherer lifestyle with no interactions with the outside world.