

The Tropical Rainforest – Word List

- **advantages** = the good sides of something
- **although** = while
- **attack** = if you want to damage or hurt an animal or a person
- **attract** = here: to make themselves interesting for other birds
- **bark** = the skin of a tree
- **basin** = an area of land that is lower in the middle ; usually, a big river flows through it
- **benefit** = if something helps you
- **bill** = the hard, pointed mouth of a bird
- **branch** = part of a tree that grows out from the trunk
- **cattle** = cows that are kept on a farm
- **chop down** = cut down
- **clear up** = to become sunny
- **consist of** = to be made up of
- **crops** = plants like corn, wheat or rice, that are grown by farmers and used as food
- **crown** = top part of a tree
- **cure** = to make an illness go away
- **dam** = a wall built across a river ; most dams are built to stop flooding and produce electricity
- **decompose** = to fall apart and be destroyed after some time
- **deforestation** = the cutting or burning down of all trees in an area
- **depend on** = you need the help of something or someone
- **despite** = here: even if there are ...
- **drought** = a long period of very dry weather
- **ecosystem** = all the plants and animals that live together in a certain area
- **environment** = nature and the world around us
- **equator** = line around the middle of the earth, which divides it in two halves
- **evaporate** = to change from liquid to gas form
- **evergreen** = when a plant or tree does not lose its leaves in the winter
- **fern** = plant with green leaves that look like feathers, but with no flowers
- **fertile** = able to produce a lot of crops and food
- **firewood** = wood that you collect to make a fire
- **flood** = a large area of water that covers a place that is usually dry
- **fluid** = watery, liquid
- **furniture** = large objects in the house that are mostly made of wood, like chairs, tables, cupboards
- **gap** = empty space between two objects
- **government** = the people who rule a country
- **hardly** = here: not very much
- **heavy** = very strong
- **hollow** = an object with an empty inner part
- **huge** = very big
- **human beings** = people

- **humid** = very wet
- **immediately** = at once, very quickly
- **indigenous people** = native people who have always lived in the same place
- **iron ore** = rock or earth that has iron in it
- **juice** = a liquid that comes from a fruit, tree or vegetable
- **layer** = material between two other objects
- **liana** = long vine that grows up trees
- **method** = way, form
- **mine** = to dig deep holes into the earth and bring coal, gold and other valuable minerals to the surface
- **mixture** = combination of two or more things
- **nectar** = the liquid that insects collect from flowers
- **nutrient** = a chemical that gives plants what they need to grow
- **plantation** = here: a large group of trees that are grown to produce rubber
- **pollinate** = to give a flower or a plant pollen - a fine, yellowy powder - so that it can produce seeds
- **raise** = to look after animals and help them grow, so that they can be sold
- **rare** = here : not very many of them exist
- **rate** = speed
- **raw materials** = things that exist in nature and can be used by people; like wood, oil or minerals
- **reach** = get to
- **regulate** = control
- **rise** = move up
- **scientist** = person who is trained in science and works in a lab
- **seed** = a small, hard object that is in a fruit or a plant
- **shadowy** = very dark
- **shifting cultivation** = farmers grow crops on a piece of land, but only for a short time - when the soil is too bad to grow food they move on to the next piece of land
- **shoulder** = part of the body between the neck and arm
- **smooth** = flat and soft, with no bumpy parts
- **soil** = the top part of the earth on which plants grow
- **species** = group of animals or plants that are like each other
- **supply** = give
- **survival** = to live on in dangerous situations
- **throughout** = in the whole
- **timber** = the wood that you use to build houses
- **tribe** = a group of people who have the same language and customs; they are often ruled by a chief or leader
- **trunk** = the thick, middle stem of a tree
- **valley** = area of low land with a river flowing through it
- **valuable** = very important and expensive
- **vapour** = very small drops of liquid that float in the air
- **weigh** = how heavy something is