

Reading Comprehension Task 2 - Tropical Rainforests

What Makes an Area a Tropical Rainforest?

Tropical rainforests are forests that receive more than 80 inches of rain a year. Some rainforests receive as much as 200-400 inches of rain a year! Rainforests also have large amounts of humidity, or water vapour in the air.



What is the Temperature Like in a Tropical Rainforest?



The temperature in a tropical rainforest does not vary, or change, much during the year. It ranges between 70 and 80 degrees Fahrenheit at all times. Tropical rainforests never get really hot because they receive almost daily rainfall. Other areas near the equator which do not receive a great deal of rainfall have much higher average temperatures than tropical rainforests. The temperature is much the same at night as it is

during the day, unlike other places where the temperature at night is much cooler than the temperature during the day. The reason that the temperature stays the same year round is that the lands near the equator receive the direct rays of the sun.

A Rainforest Day

Tropical rainforests have days which are evenly divided between light and darkness. This is because the tropics belt receives direct rays from the sun. Therefore, a rainforest day has 12 hours of sunlight and 12 hours of darkness. There are several characteristics that make an area considered to be a rainforest. They are found in the tropics belt and receive more than 60 inches of rain a year. Rainforests have temperatures that remain between 70-80 degrees year around. They have days that are evenly divided between sunlight and darkness.



Now answer these questions:

1. What does the word humidity mean?

2. What is the range of temperature in a tropical rainforest?

3. Why does the temperature in a rainforest stay the same year around?

4. Why are a rainforest's days evenly divided between light and darkness?

5. List 4 characteristics that an area must have to be considered a rainforest:
