**The Amazon Rainforest – South America**

* The Amazon rainforest is the largest tropical rainforest in the world, covering over five and a half a million square kilometres. It's so big that the UK and Ireland would fit into it 17 times!
* Over half of the Amazon rainforest is located in **Brazil** but it is also located in other South American countries including **Peru, Venezuela, Ecuador, Colombia, Guyana, Bolivia, Suriname and French Guiana.**
* 10% of the world’s known species live in the Amazon rainforest.
* 20% (1,300) of the world’s bird species live in the Amazon rainforest.
* It is home to around 2.5 million different insect species as well as over 40,000 plant species,**3,000 types of fish** and **430 mammals.**
* There are also a number of dangerous species living in the Amazon rainforest such as the cougar, jaguar and anaconda.
* Running through the north of the rainforest is the **Amazon river**. Flowing a length of around **6,400km**, it is the longest river in the world.
* Around 400-500 tribes call the Amazon rainforest home. It's believed that about fifty of these tribes have never had contact with the outside world!
* More than **20%** of the world’s oxygen is produced by the Amazon.
* Due to the thickness of the canopy (the top branches and leaves of the trees), the Amazon floor is in permanent darkness. In fact, it’s *so* thick that when it rains, it takes around ten minutes for the water to reach the ground!
* Latin American forests are home to **black howler monkeys**, whose calls can be heard **almost 5km away**!

**Rainfall and temperatures in the Amazon**

