

Tropical Rainforests

Geography Alive! Chapter 12

"Land Use Conflict in Amazon Rainforests"



What is a Rainforest?



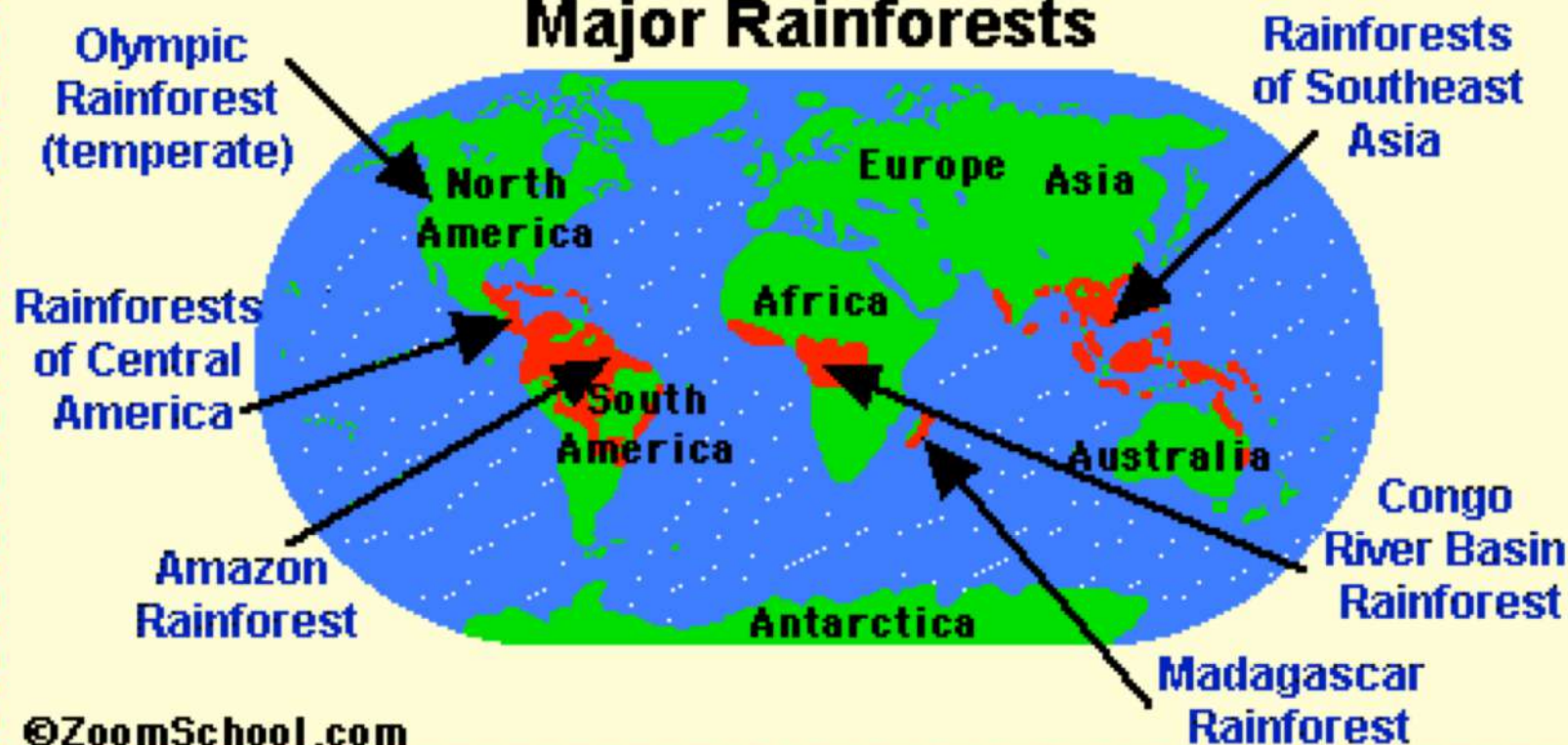
A Rainforest is...

simply a forest that receives more than
78 inches of rain in a year

Where are Rainforests?

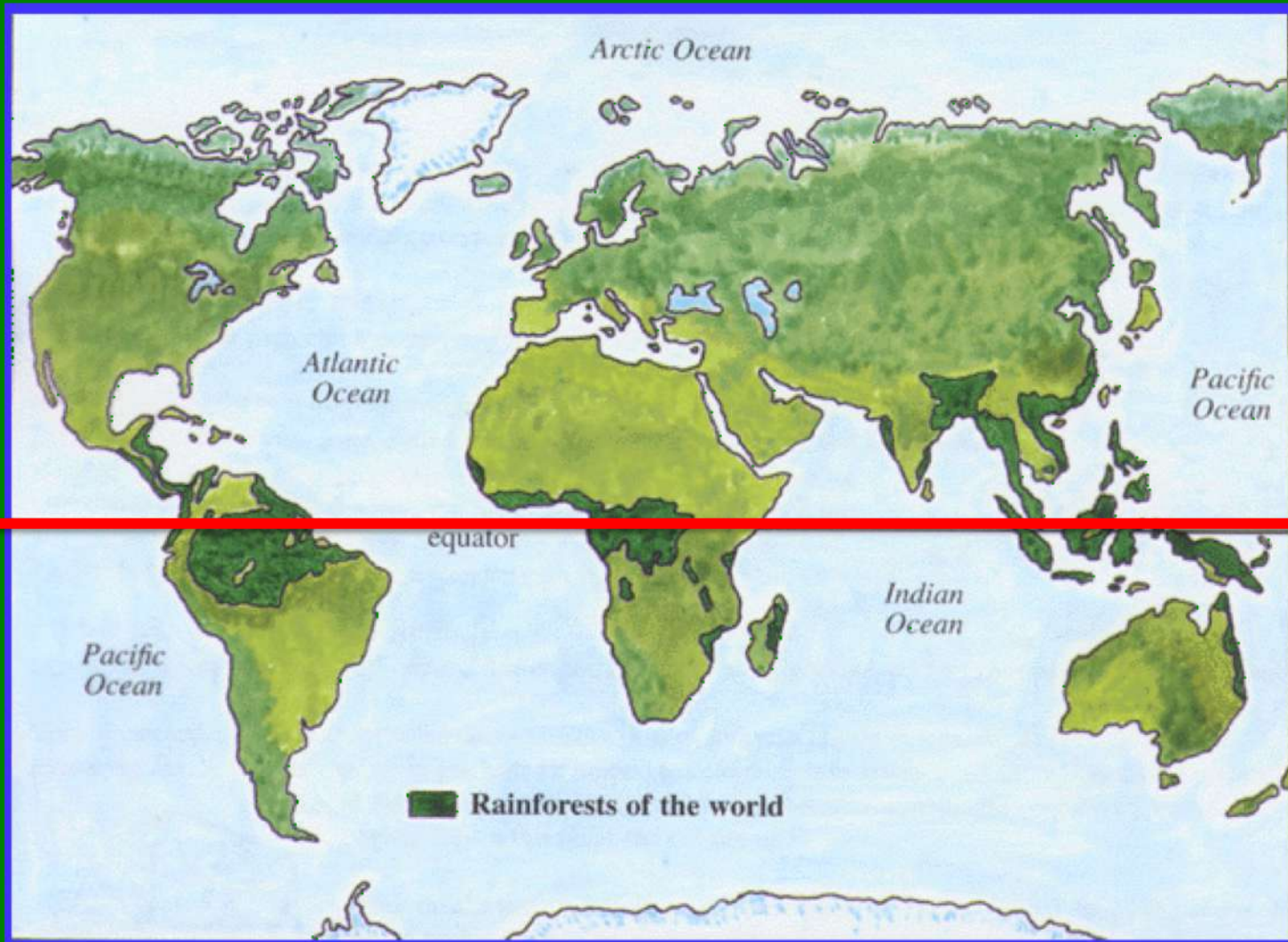


Major Rainforests





- 1) Amazon Basin,
- 2) Congo/Niger River Basins,
- 3) Mekong River &
- 4) Islands of Oceania



Generally found in a large belt around the equator...high temps, tons of rain & long growing season!

Why are Rainforests Important?



Why are Rainforests Important?

- 1) world's key storehouse to biodiversity
- 2) home to over 50% all known animal species
- 3) 1/2 of all medicines originated for plants and animals
- 4) less than 1% of plants have been tested for values
- 5) cover only 2% of the globe

What is happening to Rainforests?



What is happening to Rainforests?

- 1) being destroyed at a rate of 66,000 square miles a year
(100 acres an hour!)
- 2) 1/4 of earth's species will be eliminated in 50 years
(if current rates continue)
- 3) no rate of extinction of this magnitude during past 65 million years
(dinosaur time...1 species every 1,000 years)

WHY??

Group Activity...

- 1) Geo Alive! Text pg. 177
- 2) Activity Packet
- 3) LA Presentation Groups

Rainforest Groups...

- 1) Native Amazonians
- 2) Rubber Tappers
- 3) Loggers
- 4) Settlers
- 5) Cattle Ranchers
- 6) Environmentalists

Need to answer...

- 1) When did your group arrive?
- 2) How do they use resources
- 3) What do they want?
- 4) How do they defend their position?