

# Year 4 Topic snapshot- Into the Rainforest

## Key vocabulary

- 1. Rainforest** – a dense evergreen forest, mostly found in tropical areas, that receives a large amount of rain all year long.
- 2. Continent** – one of the earth's seven major areas of land. The continents are Africa, Antarctica, Asia, Australia, Europe, North America, and South America.
- 3. Tribe** – a group of people, families, or villages that share the same language, social customs, and ancestors.
- 4. Canopy** – the top layer of branches and leaves in a rainforest
- 5. Deforestation** – the act or process of cutting down the trees of a forest.
- 6. Tropical** – of, having to do with, characteristic of, or happening near the equator.
- 7. Endangered** - (of a species) seriously at risk of extinction.

## Key Texts

*Jemmy Button – Jennifer Uman*

Inspired by the true story of a native boy from Tierra del Fuego, brought to England to be 'civilised', Jemmy Button is a touching story about the wonder of being somewhere new and different, while feeling the 'pull' of home.

*The Explorer – Katherine Rundell*

Fred, Con, Lila and little Max's plane is on the way to Manaus when it falls out of the sky. Now, lost in the Amazon rainforest, they must figure out the basics of survival: water, shelter, food. Do they wait for rescue, or find a way to rescue themselves?

*The Great Kapok Tree – Lynne Cherry*

In the dense, green Amazon rain forest, a man has come to chop down a great Kapok tree. When he lies down to rest, the creatures that inhabit the tree and the surrounding forest come to whisper in his ear, each in its own fashion begging him to spare their home.

## Key information - History



### *The Incas*

The Incas were originally a small tribe in the southern highlands of Peru, South America. In less than a century, during the 1400s, they built one of the largest, most tightly controlled empires the world has ever known. Their skill in government was matched by their feats of engineering. Roads, walls and irrigation works constructed by the Incas are still in use today. Spanish conquerors captured the Inca emperor in 1532 and began to break up the empire.

## Key information - Geography



### *South America*

South America is the fourth largest continent in size and the fifth largest in population. There are 12 countries in South America, the largest is Brazil, and a total of more than 385 million people living on the continent. The Amazon Rainforest is located in South America.