

## Tropical Rainforests Homework 1 Answers

1) Using figure 1, outline 2 characteristics of the vegetation in tropical rainforests (2)

1.1 E.g. many trees are very tall [1 mark]. / The vegetation cover is dense [1 mark].

2) Explain how the rainforest vegetation shown in Figure 1 can support high animal populations (2)

1.2 E.g. many animals rely on plants for food [1 mark]. The dense, varied vegetation provides lots of food, so it can support high animal populations [1 mark].

3) Describe the climate of Tropical rainforests (3)

1.3 The climate is the same all year round / there are no definite seasons [1 mark]. It's hot (the temperature is generally between 20-28 °C and only varies by a few degrees over the year) [1 mark]. Rainfall is very high (around 2000 mm per year) and it rains every day [1 mark].

4) Explain how the climate affects the characteristics of the soils that form in the tropical rainforest (2)

1.4 Fallen leaves decay quickly in the hot, moist climate, so there is a nutrient-rich surface layer of soil [1 mark]. Heavy rain washes nutrients away, so the lower levels of soil aren't very fertile [1 mark].

5) Explain how the soil and plants in tropical rainforests are dependent on one another

1.5 The nutrient-rich surface layer of soil means that plants can grow quickly and vegetation is dense [1 mark]. Plants lose leaves all year round, returning nutrients to the soil, so the top layer of the soil remains fertile [1 mark].