

Year 4 Geography Unit - Fantastic plants and where to find them



Context 70% of all species on Earth are plants and there are some fantastic ones!

Plants only grow where they will *happily* grow, where the conditions are perfect. Vegetation bands form around the planet due to the climate, resulting in places where plants form the basis of whole ecosystems.

There are many fantastic plants that we use and can solve some global problems.

Key vocabulary and places

Climate -- the weather conditions that historically exist in an area over time.

Plant diversity - the number of different plants that grow in a location.

Vegetation bands - these are the zones where the climate is similar so similar types of plants grow well there. Bands are colder closer to the North and South Poles and hotter closer to the Equator.

Polar - Near the North and South Poles and is very cold all year.

Temperate - Warm summers and cool / cold winters.

Tropical - Hot and dry all year.

Equatorial - Near the equator and is hot and wet all year.

Cacao tree - this tree grows in equatorial areas and is where we get cocoa from!

International trade - this is where we buy things from other countries.

Bamboo - a plant that grows in Asia in the subtropical and temperate areas. It is strong and sustainable.

Sustainable - that the supply of something is safe because, for plants, it regrows fast.

Biodegradable - this means that something will naturally rot away, unlike plastic.

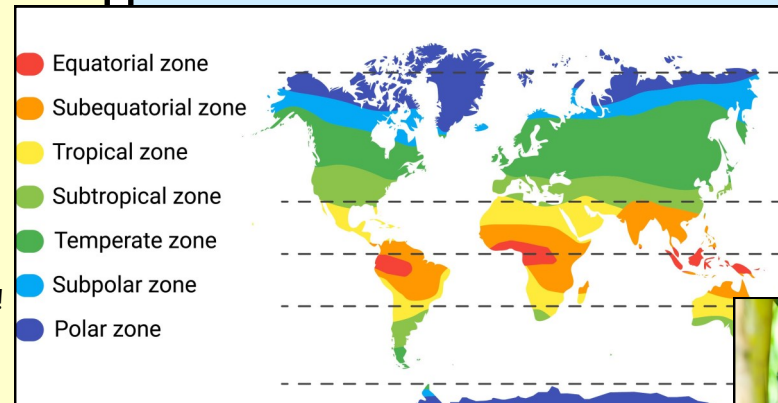
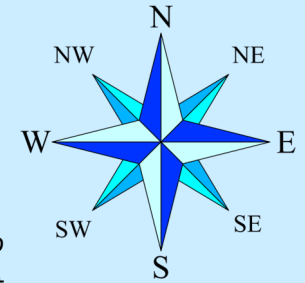
Pine tree - grows in colder forests in the temperate zones. Grows quickly for a tree so very sustainable source of wood for e.g. paper making.

Threatened plants - plants that are in danger due to human activity.



Geography Skills

- You should make comparisons between different places when looking at pictures, maps and photos.
- Use a compass with 4 or 8 points confidently.
- You should be able to match country boundaries on maps of different scales.
- Locate places on a large scale map and when using atlases. Know that a key is needed and use one.
- You should begin to identify important places and environments.



Something to reflect on...

Which of the fantastic plants you've studied is the most fantastic to you? Why?

Which vegetation band has the most interesting plants? Why?

Can you think of any other world problems that could be fixed by fantastic plants?