

Note Taking Sample

'Rainforests of Australia'

Rainforest are the most diverse ecosystem found in Australia but cover less than 1% of the total area of the continent.

Rainforests extend from near the tip of Cape York in the north to Tasmania in the south.

Rainforests get about 2 metres of rainfall a year. Tropical rainforests receive rain all year round but temperate rainforests have a wet and dry season. Temperatures are very mild in a rainforest, ranging between 24-27°C.

Rainforests are divided into layers starting with emergents at the top, then the canopy, the understorey beneath the canopy and finally the forest floor. Without the shelter the canopy provides, the rainforest cannot survive.

Each layer supports a diverse range of plants and animals. Forty per cent of Australia's plants exist in tropical rainforests. Animal species living in Australian rainforests include marsupial mammals, birds, bats, frogs, reptiles, spiders and a wide variety of insects.

In the 1700s, Australian rainforests covered over 1% of the continent but due to continued logging and land-clearing only tiny fragments of rainforest remain along the east coast today. There are three types of rainforests along the east coast of Australia: tropical, subtropical and temperate.

