Colchester County High School for Girls – Geography Department – Progress Tracker

Living with the Physical Environment 3.1.2 Section B: The living world - 3.1.2.1 Ecosystems - 3.1.2.2 Tropical rainforests 3.1.2.3 Hot deserts				
	Ecosystems exist at a range of scales and involve the interaction between biotic and abiotic components.			
	An example of a small scale UK ecosystem to illustrate the concept of interrelationships within a natural system, an understanding of producers, consumers, decomposers, food chain, food web and nutrient cycling.			
	The balance between components. The impact on the ecosystem of changing one component.			
	An overview of the distribution and characteristics of large scale natural global ecosystems.			
	Tropical rainforest ecosystems have a range of distinctive characteristics.			
	The physical characteristics of a tropical rainforest.			
	The interdependence of climate, water, soils, plants, animals and people.			
	How plants and animals adapt to the physical conditions.			
	Issues related to biodiversity in TRFs.			
	Deforestation has economic and environmental impacts.			
	Changing rates of deforestation.			
	A case study of a tropical rainforest to illustrate: causes of deforestation – subsistence and commercial farming, logging, road building, mineral extraction, energy development, settlement, population growth; impacts of deforestation – economic development, soil erosion, and contribution to climate change.			
	Tropical rainforests need to be managed to be sustainable.			
	Value of tropical rainforests to people and the environment. Strategies used to manage the rainforest sustainably – selective logging and replanting, conservation and education, ecotourism and international agreements about the use of tropical hardwoods, debt reduction.			
	The physical characteristics of a hot desert.			
	The interdependence of climate, water, soils, plants, animals and people.			
	How plants and animals adapt to the physical conditions.			
	Issues related to biodiversity in deserts.			
	A case study of a hot desert to illustrate: development opportunities in hot desert environments: mineral extraction, energy, farming, tourism challenges of developing hot desert environments: extreme temperatures, water supply, inaccessibility.			
	Causes of desertification – climate change, population growth, removal of fuel wood, overgrazing, over-cultivation and soil erosion. Strategies used to reduce the risk of desertification – water and soil management, tree planting, use of appropriate technology.			