

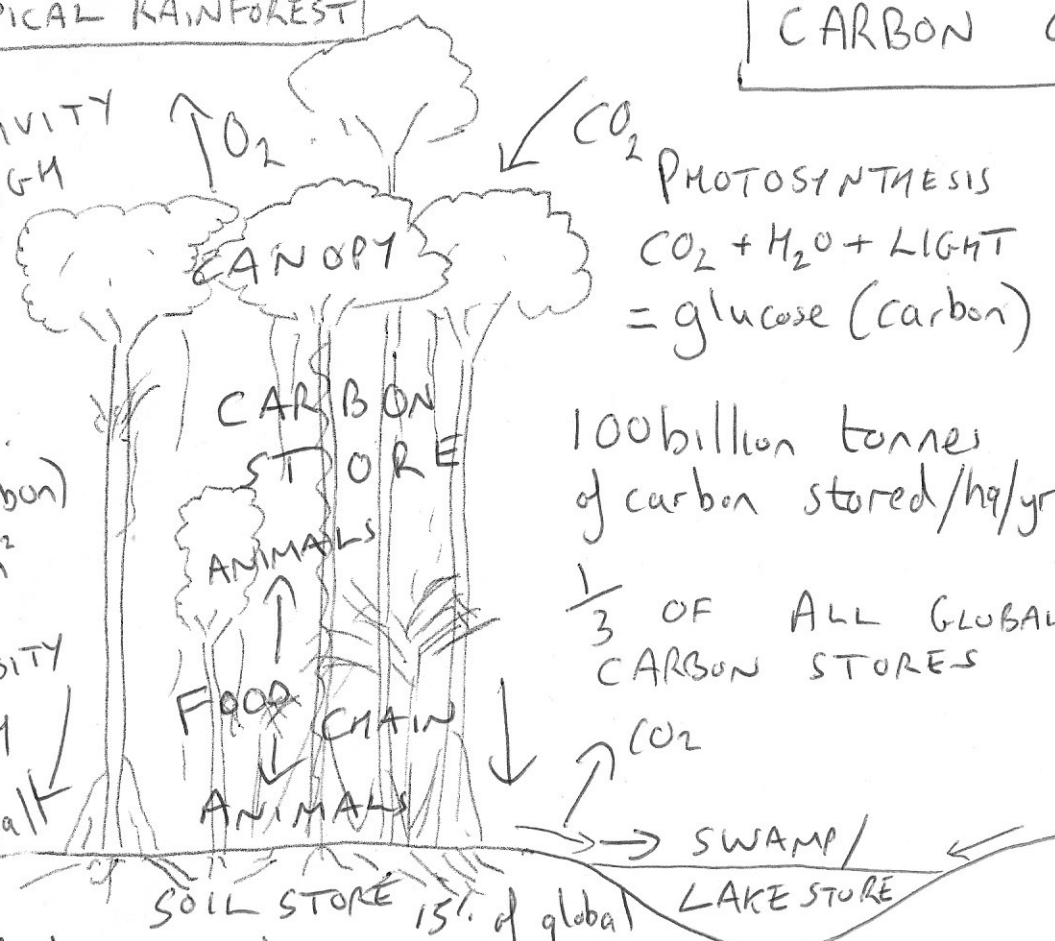
TROPICAL RAINFOREST

CARBON CYCLE

PRODUCTIVITY
VERY HIGH
2200 g/m²/yr

BIOMASS
VERY HIGH.
(stored carbon)
45 kg/m²

BIO DIVERSITY
VERY HIGH
leaf fall



PRODUCTIVITY OF
PHOTOSYNTHESIS HIGH
DUE TO:-

- Climate, hot, wet all year
- All year growing season
- Large leaf area.
- Canopy is the 'engine room'

MASSIVE SEQUESTRATION/
SINK / STORE

1 tree stores 22-6 kg of
Carbon a year
1 tonne per 25 yrs.

- 85% stored in plants (flora)
- 15% stored in litter/soil
- < 1% stored in animals (fauna)

BUT DEFORESTATION has
reduced rainforest carbon stores
by 1/3 in the last ~ 10 years.

NOW QUESTION? Are Rainforests a SINK OR SOURCE?