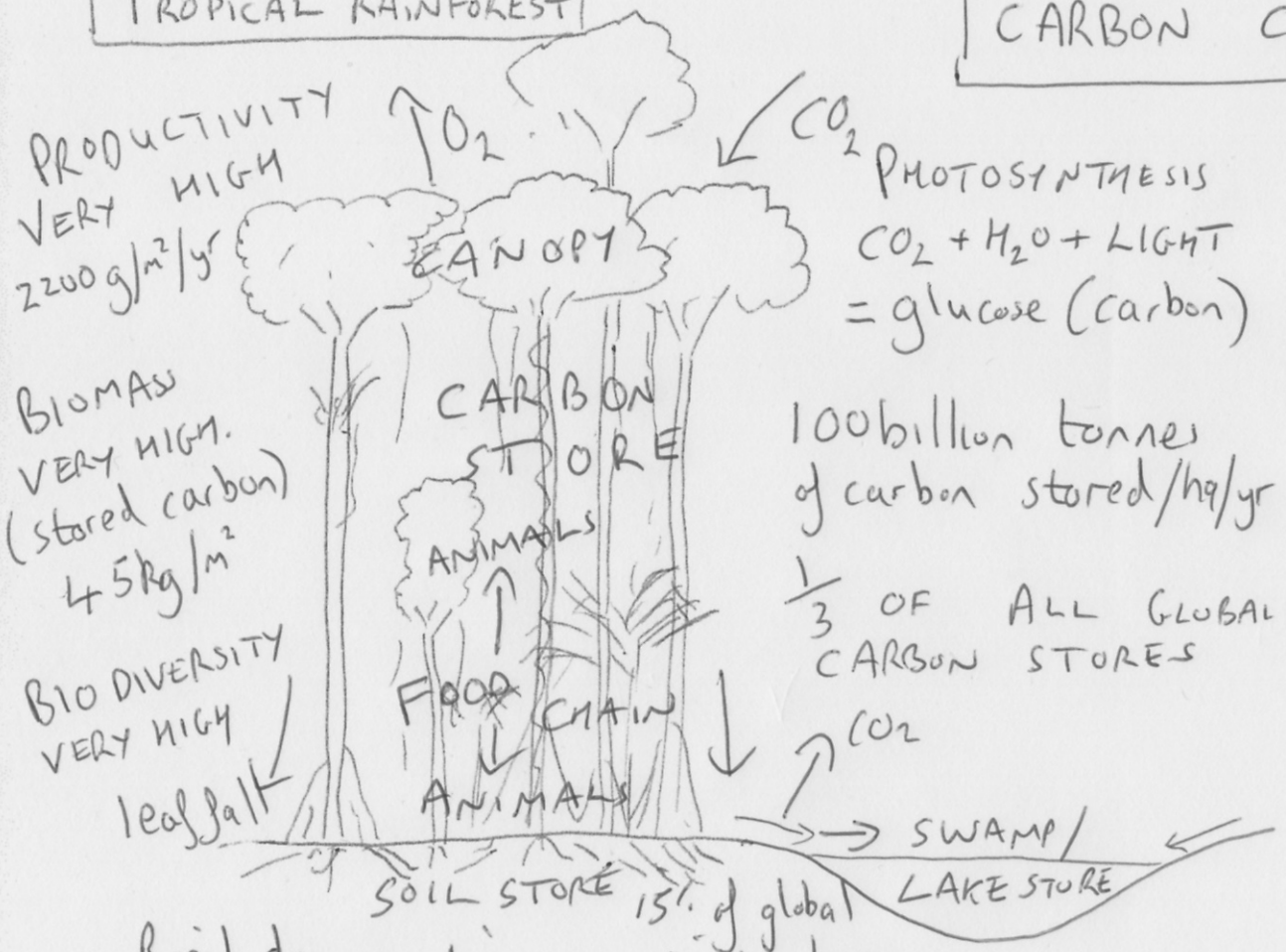
TROPICAL RAINFOREST



Rapid decomposition

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

CARBON CYCLE

PHOTOSYNTHESIS
$CO_2 + H_2O + LIGHT$
= glucose (carbon)

100billion tonnes of carbon stored/hq/yr

1/3 OF ALL GLOBAL CARBON STORES

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.

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

NOW QUESTION? Are Rainforests a SINK OR SOURCE?