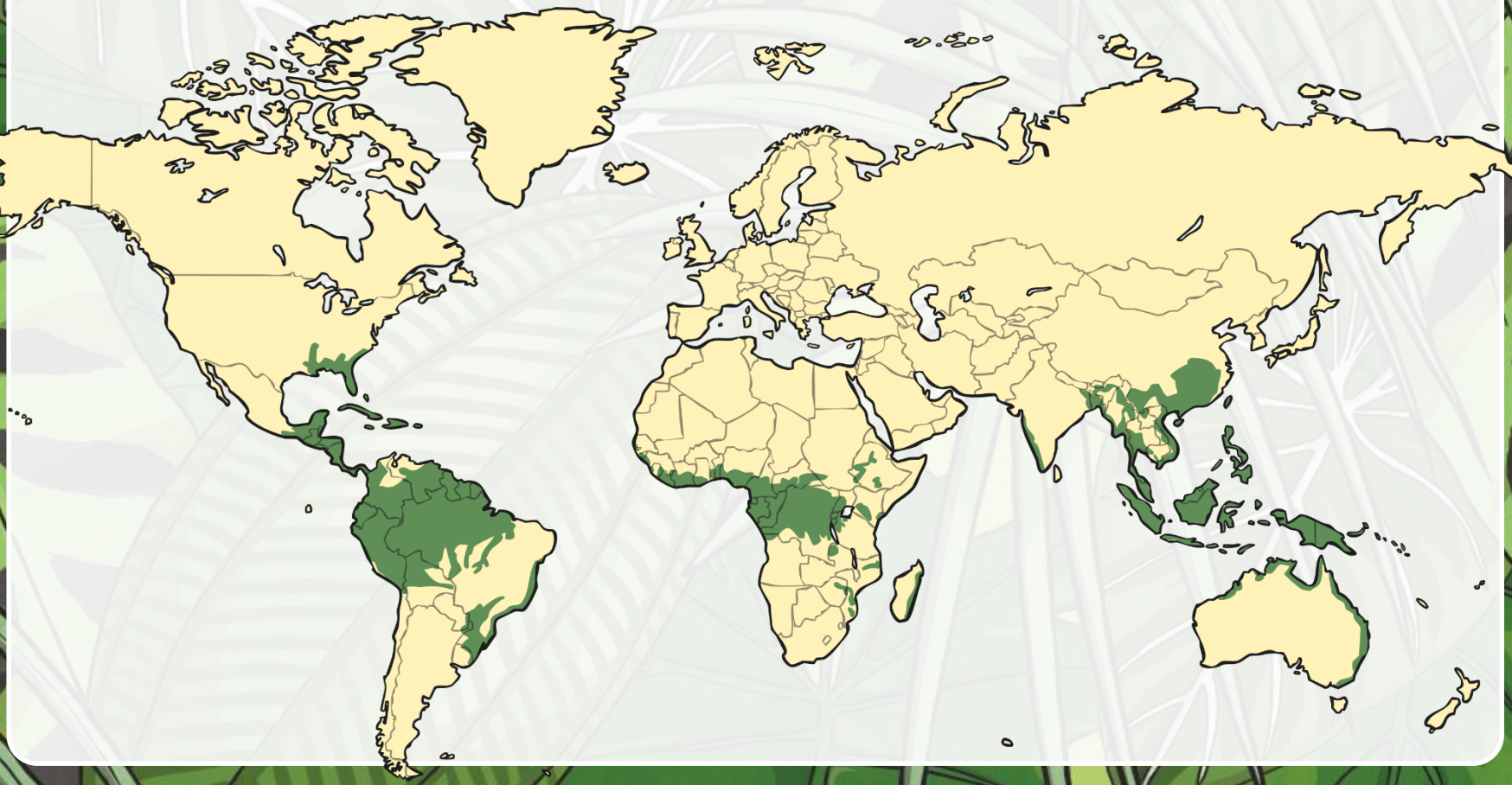

Plants of
Tropical Rainforests
twinkl

Plants of Tropical Rainforests

Tropical rainforests cover less than 2% of the planet but are home to 50% of the plants and animal species on Earth!

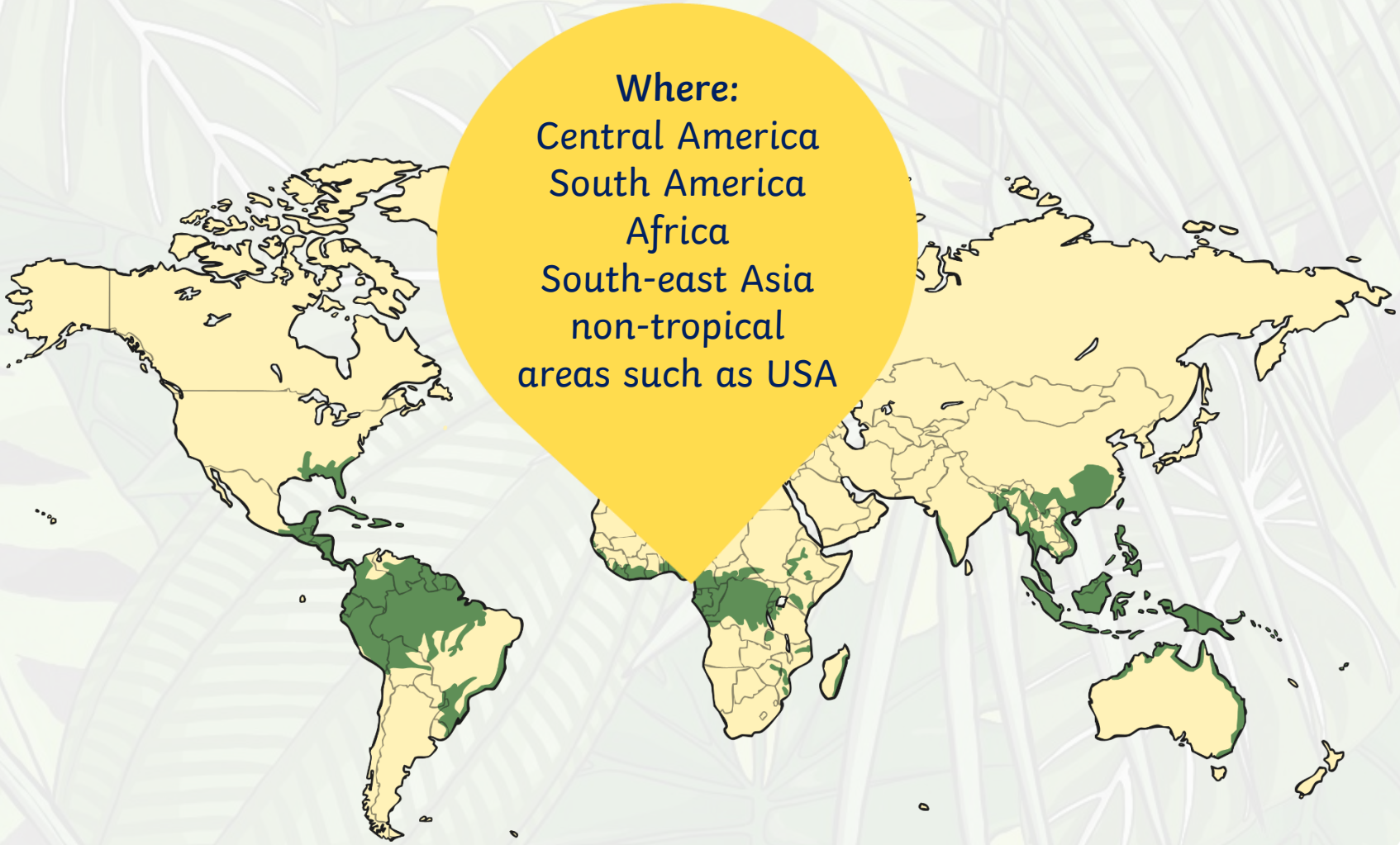


The Banana Plant

Bananas are actually giant herbs! The trees on which they grow can get to twenty feet high.



The Banana Plant



Rubber Tree

Reaching around 40m, the rubber tree produces milky-white sap called latex which is actually used to make rubber!



Rubber Tree


Where:
Amazon region of
South America
Brazil
Venezuela
Ecuador
Colombia
Peru
Bolivia

Heliconia



This colourful plant has 40 different species. It is also known as ‘lobster claws’ or ‘parrot flowers’.

Heliconia



The claw shapes are actually ‘bract’ which are leaves that protect the flower inside so only specific birds, such as humming birds, can get to them

Heliconia

Where:
The Neotropics
Southern Mexico
Central America
South America
West Indies



Orchids

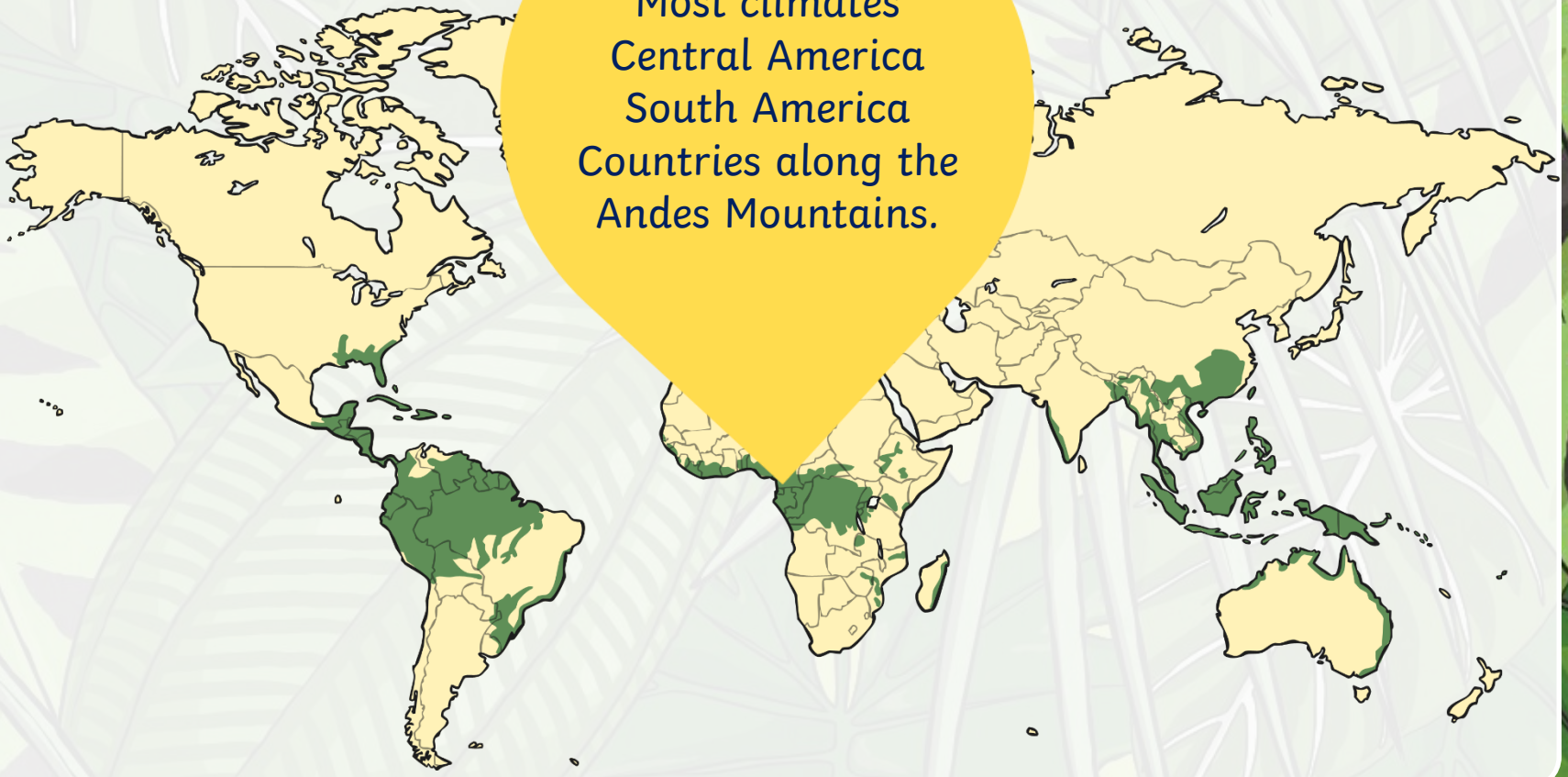
The largest family of plants in the world. They come in every colour except black.



They can grow to over 4m long!

Orchids

Where:
Most climates
Central America
South America
Countries along the
Andes Mountains.



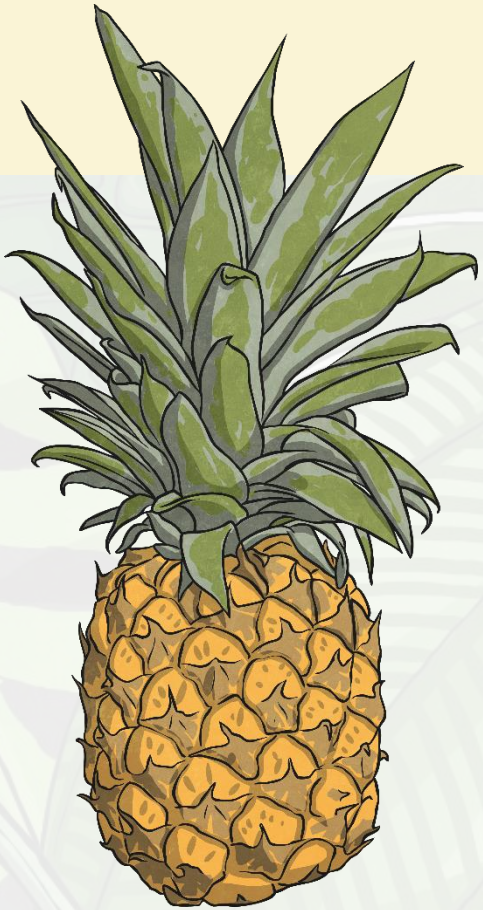
Bromeliad

Bromeliads contain more than 2,700 species that grow on the ground, on rocks and on other plants.



Bromeliad

However, you may recognise the spikey leaves as being the plant of the pineapple.







Bromeliad


Where:
The Neotropics
Southern Mexico
Central America
South America
West Indies
Western Africa

Cacao

The evergreen cacao tree grows pods containing 20 to 60 reddish-brown cocoa beans.



Photo courtesy of amsfrank (@flickr.com) – granted under creative commons licence – attribution

Cacao

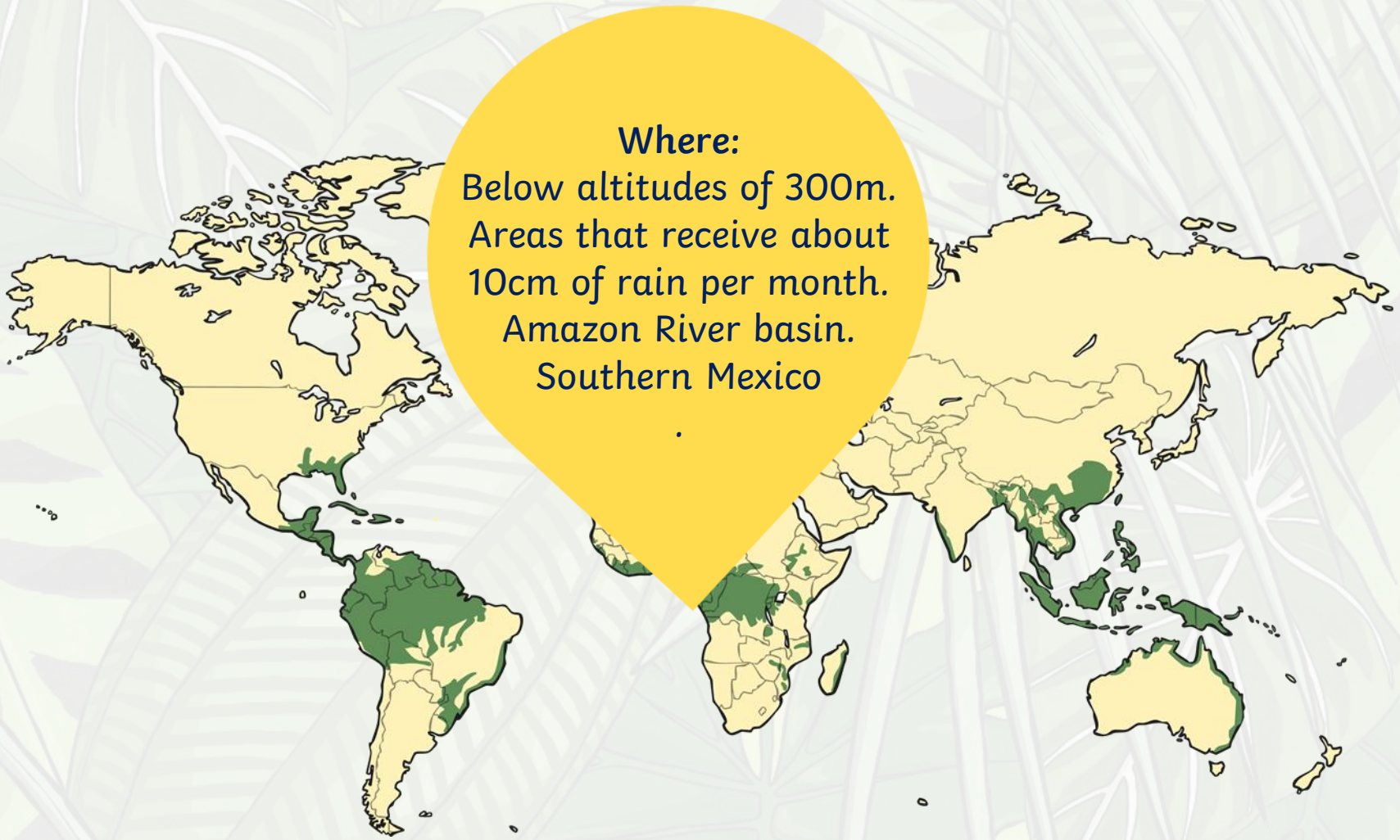


It takes from 7 to 14 pods to make one pound of dry cocoa beans, which is turned into chocolate.

It's important for cacao to be harvested sustainably due to the worldwide popularity of chocolate.



Cacao



Where:
Below altitudes of 300m.
Areas that receive about 10cm of rain per month.
Amazon River basin.
Southern Mexico
.

Poinsettia

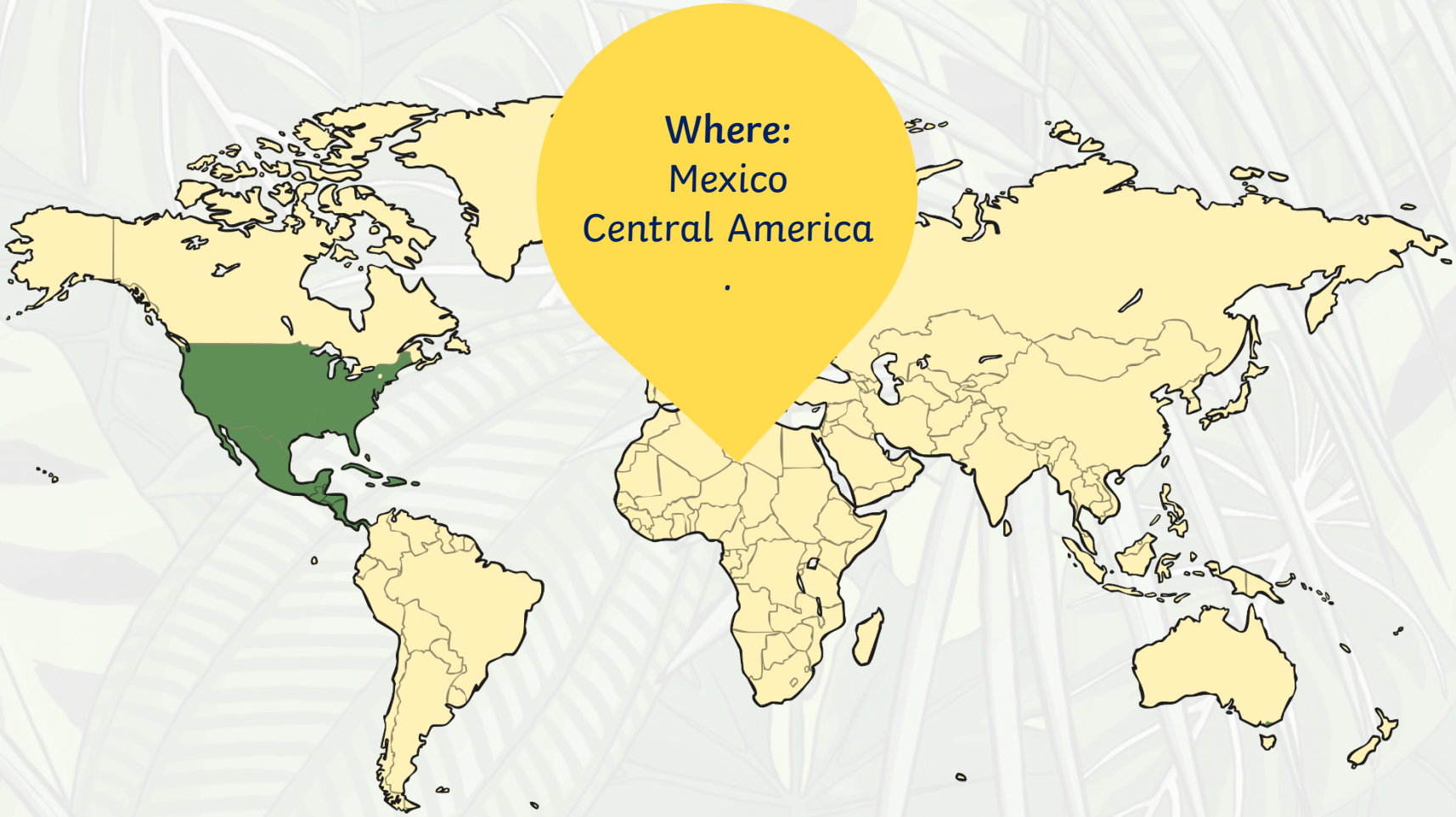
The poinsettia comes in red, white, pink and two colours. The coloured part looks like petals but they are in fact leaves.



They are rumoured to be poisonous but they aren't, which is good, as they are a popular Christmas plant in the UK.



Poinsettia



Brazil Nut Tree

The brazil nut tree towers over its neighbours as it can reach 50m high. The nut is made inside the fruit the size of a tennis ball.



The outside layer of the fruit is so hard only the agoutis, a large rodent with sharp teeth, can break it open.

Photo courtesy of mauroguanandi (@flickr.com) - granted under creative commons licence - attribution

Brazil Nut Tree



Where:
Amazon Rainforest (Brazil, Colombia, Venezuela, Ecuador and Peru).
.

Sapodilla

The kiwi-shaped fruit has a yellow inside that tastes like a pear. It is considered to be the best fruit in Central America. The rainforest mammals, such as howler monkeys, eat it a lot.



Sapodilla

The bark contains a white, gummy sap called chicle. This was used by the Mayans and Aztecs to create the first chewing gum



Sapodilla



Where:
Southern Mexico
North-eastern Guatemala
Belize

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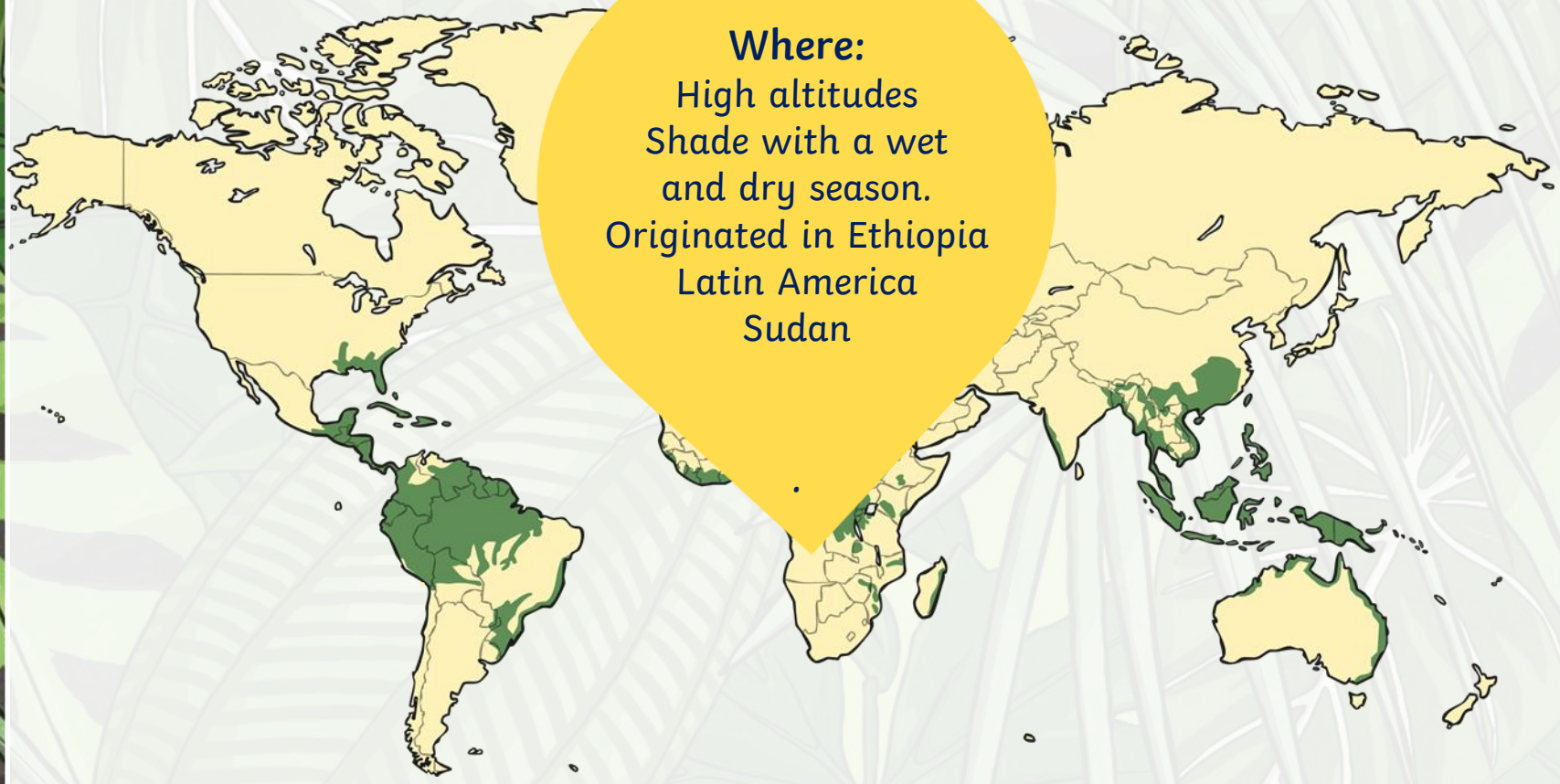
Coffee

The coffee plant is a shrub that can grow to over 9m. Each berry has 2 beans inside. They start off green until they are roasted. Coffee plants can live for 100 years!



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Coffee



Where:
High altitudes
Shade with a wet
and dry season.
Originated in Ethiopia
Latin America
Sudan

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Strelitzia - Bird of Paradise Flower



Named after the bird of paradise because of their outstanding beauty, they are prized for their ornamental uses. Their boat-shaped ‘bract’ (leaf that protect flowers) holds around 5 brightly coloured flowers.

Strelitzia - Bird of Paradise Flower




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