

CHARLES
DICKENS
PRIMARY
SCHOOL

Brazil and the Amazon Rainforest

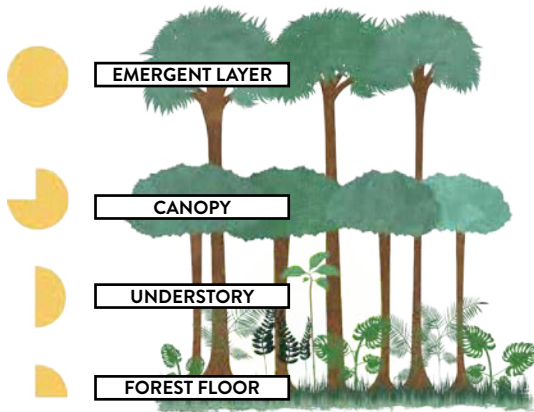


Name _____

Class _____

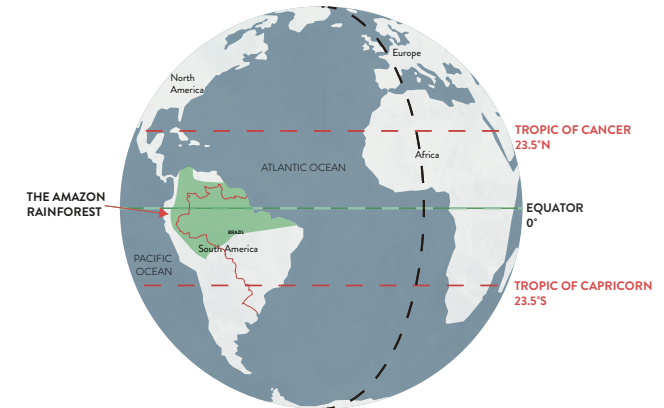
THE AMAZON RAINFOREST AND BRAZIL

KEY FACTS



The Amazon Rainforest

- The Amazon rainforest takes its name from the Amazon, the world's largest river.
- The Amazon rainforest spans 9 countries: Brazil, Peru, Colombia, Ecuador, Bolivia, Venezuela, Guyana, Suriname and French Guiana.
- Tropical rainforests are located in a band around the equator (0° latitude), mostly in the area between the Tropic of Cancer (23.5° N latitude) and the Tropic of Capricorn (23.5° S latitude).
- This 3,000 mile (4800 km) wide band is called the "tropics." Tropical rainforests thrive here because of the hot and humid climates where it rains virtually everyday.
- Rainforests cover just 6% of the Earth's land surface, but are home to over 80% of known terrestrial species.
- The rainforests are important because of the variety of life that they support (their biodiversity) and because they absorb carbon dioxide and release oxygen.
- The rainforest is under threat of deforestation because of demand for wood for timber, as fuel and to make paper; clearing land for agriculture; road construction; the extraction of minerals.



Brazil

- The seven continents are: Africa, Asia, Antarctica, Australasia (Oceania), Europe, North America, South America.
- Brazil is the fifth largest country in the world, by both area and population and is located in South America.
- The capital of Brazil is Brasilia. Other major cities are Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro.
- Brazil is the only country with the Equator and the Tropic of Capricorn passing through it.
- Brazil is bordered to the East by the Atlantic Ocean. and shares a land border with nine countries: Uruguay, Argentina, Paraguay, Bolivia, Peru, Colombia, Venezuela, Guyana and Suriname.
- The official language of Brazil is Portuguese.
- Brazil is the world's most successful footballing nation, winning the World Cup a record five times.

KEY VOCABULARY



- continent:** a large land mass - one of seven in the world
- South America:** a continent - South of North America and home to Brazil and the Amazonian rainforest
- Amazon:** a South American river - the largest in the world
- rainforest:** a biome with high rainfall and warm temperatures
- hemisphere:** one half of the earth. The Northern Hemisphere is the part of the world North of the equator; the Southern Hemisphere is the half of the world South of the equator
- equator:** the imaginary line of latitude running around the centre of the earth
- biodiversity:** the variety of plants and animals on earth
- tropics:** regions spanning the equator between 23.5 degrees S and 23.5 degrees N

DEFORESTATION

GLOSSARY

deforestation The act of chopping down trees and destroying forests

timber The wood from chopped down trees

greenhouse effect The warming of the planet caused by too much carbon dioxide in the atmosphere

carbon dioxide A gas that contributes to global warming

oxygen A gas needed for life

habitat The place where an animal lives



PART 1: QUIZ

1) Where is the Amazon rainforest?
(Shade the map below)



2) How did the Amazon rainforest get its name?

3) Name 4 animals that live in the rainforest?

1 _____
2 _____
3 _____
4 _____

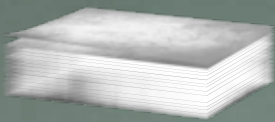
4) Give 2 reasons why the rainforests are important.

1 _____

2 _____

LOGGING

Logging involves cutting trees for sale as timber or pulp. The timber (logs or wood), is also used to make homes, furniture, paper, pencils, wood-chips for packaging products, fuel for cooking and providing heat for homes, etc. Pulp is used to make paper and paper products. The wood is first crushed with grinders (huge grindstones) and then soaked in water to produce ground wood. This is then rolled out flat to make paper.



PULP

- Logs are crushed by grinders
- Turns logs into tiny pieces of wood (like sand)
- Tiny pieces soaked in water
- Rolled and cut into paper

TIMBER

- Used for:
- Construction materials
 - To make furniture
 - Packaging
 - Fuel

DEFORESTATION



Trees are chopped down, the rainforest cleared and burnt.



Chopped trees are made into timber and pulp.



Land used for commercial agriculture and farming.



New roads and factories are built on former rainforest sites.

1
football
pitch lost every
minute

It is estimated that the rainforest is decreasing at a rate equivalent to 1 football pitch every minute!





1) What is logging?

2) Timber is another word for ?

3) What is the timber used for?

4) How is paper made?

Why is the land being cleared?

Tick the answers you think are correct:

- To provide space for both small and large farms.
- To create land for poor farmers who don't have anywhere else to live.
- To construct roads.
- To plant bigger and better trees.
- To give the natural wildlife space to run around.
- To create more oxygen.

 PART 3: WHAT ARE THE EFFECTS OF DEFORESTATION?

 Explain how deforestation affects the following:

Climate and the atmosphere:

Biodiversity:

Humans who live there: