

The Amazon Rainforest

Where Is the Amazon Rainforest?

The Amazon rainforest spans over eight countries in South America and is the world's largest rainforest. It covers an area of over six million square kilometres and it is over 24 times the size of the United Kingdom! Like other tropical rainforests, it is hot and humid throughout the year and has a large amount of rainfall.



What Is in the Amazon Rainforest?

The Amazon rainforest contains millions of different species; scientists state that it is one of the most biologically **diverse** places on Earth. Additionally, it is thought that more than 30 million people live there. Most people who live there follow a lifestyle that combines the modern world but some rely on nature for food, clothing and medicine.

The rainforest is made up of four layers: emergent, canopy, understory and forest floor. Different species live in each of these layers due to the varied conditions.

Did You Know...?

The pink river dolphin can be found in the Amazon river. It is one of the only freshwater dolphin species in the world.



Emergent Layer

The emergent layer is the top layer of the rainforest. The Brazil nut tree is found here and can live for hundreds of years. Birds, bats and butterflies fly between the towering trees.



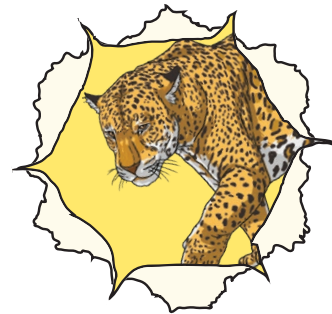
Canopy

Beneath the emergent layer is the canopy. The trees are close together which forms a roof over the other two layers. As there is plenty of food in this layer due to fruit trees, it is where most animals live in the rainforest. Spider monkeys, sloths and toucans are a few of the species that can be found here.



Understory

The understory is warm and dimly lit. The dark environment and thick plants are a great source of camouflage for certain animals, such as the jaguar. Some plants grow large leaves in order to catch any of the rain that trickles down through the canopy.



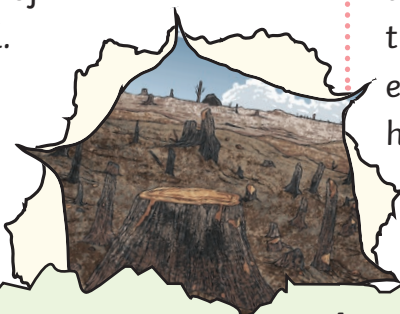
Forest Floor

The forest floor is very dark and it is full of rotting matter. Anteaters and wild pigs feast on the different insects that can be found there.



What Are the Threats to the Amazon Rainforest?

The act of deforestation is threatening the beauty and the future of the Amazon. Trees are being cleared at a fast rate and every minute, an area roughly the same size as five football pitches is cut down. There are many reasons for deforestation, such as fires, building, illegal gold mining and the creation of areas for cattle. Due to the rise in deforestation, certain species of animals are at risk of becoming endangered.



The protection of the Amazon rainforest is extremely important in helping reduce climate change. Carbon dioxide is harmful to the planet and plants remove this from the air and release oxygen. Scientists fear that if deforestation in the Amazon rainforest continues to increase, global warming will continue to rise. Many people believe that governments should impose stricter measures to protect the rainforest. It is thought that this may help the natural environment, ensure the survival of different species and help prevent climate change.

Glossary

diverse: Varied or different.

Questions

1. How many countries does the Amazon rainforest span over? Tick one.

- seven
 eight
 nine
 ten

2. Draw **four** lines and match each sub-heading to the corresponding sentence from that section.

Where Is the Amazon Rainforest?

Scientists state that it is one of the most biologically diverse places on Earth.

What Is in the Amazon Rainforest?

Some plants grow large leaves in order to catch any of the rain that trickles down through the canopy.

Understory

It covers an area of over six million square kilometres.

What Are the Threats to the Amazon Rainforest?

Carbon dioxide is harmful to the planet and plants remove this from the air and release oxygen.

3. Fill in the missing words.

The Amazon rainforest _____ millions of different _____.

4. Name an animal that eats insects that live on the forest floor.

5. Look at the sub-heading called **Understory**.
Find and copy one word which shows that liquid is falling slowly.

6. ... **it is over 24 times the size of the United Kingdom!**
Why do you think the author chose to include this fact?

7. Compare the emergent layer and the understory in the Amazon rainforest.

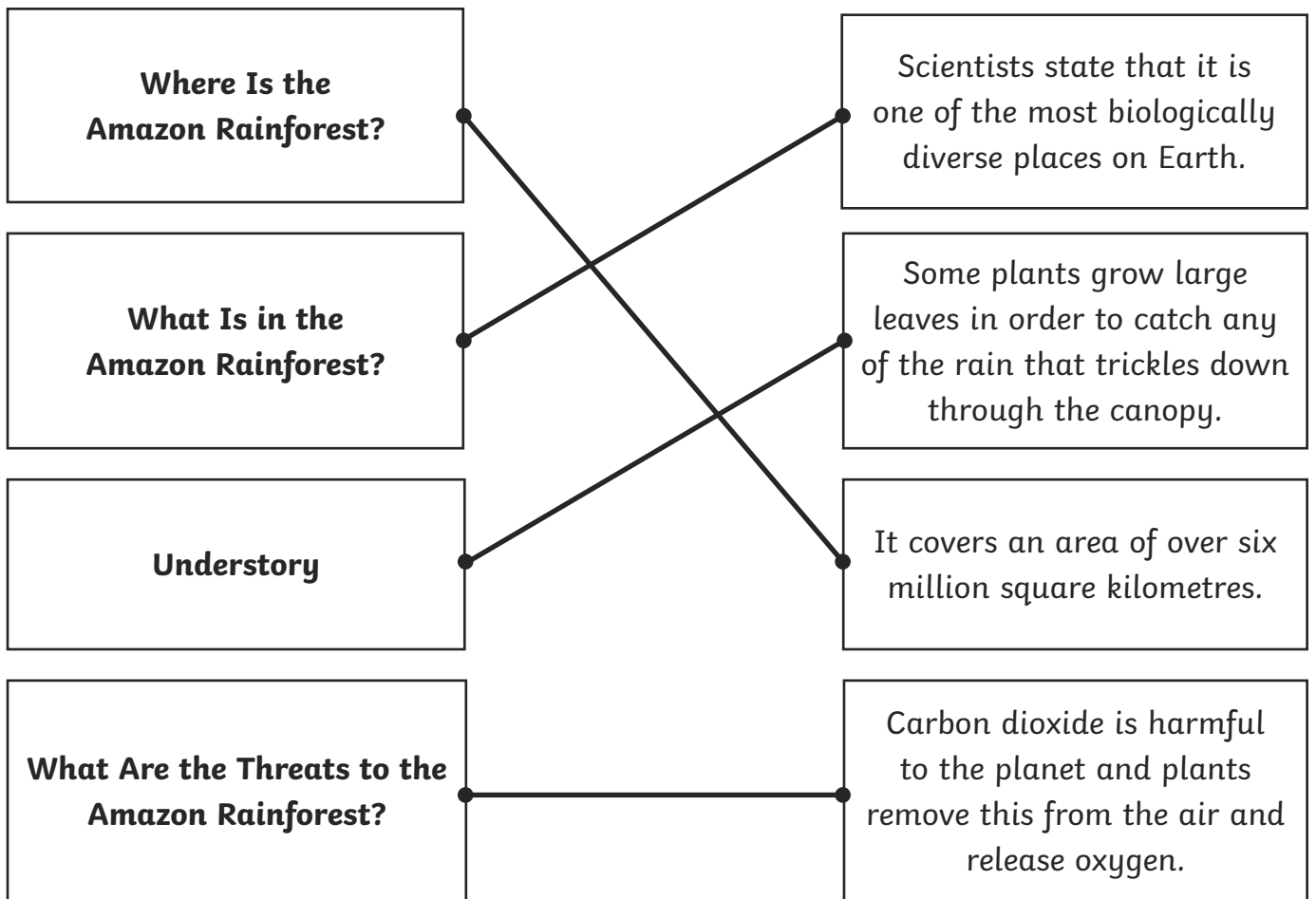
8. Summarise what you have learnt about deforestation in the Amazon rainforest in 30 words or fewer.

Answers

1. How many countries does the Amazon rainforest span over? Tick one.

- seven
- eight**
- nine
- ten

2. Draw **four** lines and match each sub-heading to the corresponding sentence from that section.



3. Fill in the missing words.

The Amazon rainforest **contains** millions of different **species**.

4. Name an animal that eats insects that live on the forest floor.

Accept either of the following: anteaters; wild pigs.

5. Look at the sub-heading called **Understory**.
Find and copy one word which shows that liquid is falling slowly.

trickles

6. ... **it is over 24 times the size of the United Kingdom!**
Why do you think the author chose to include this fact?

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think the author chose to include this fact because it emphasises how big the Amazon rainforest is and it is quite surprising for the reader.

7. Compare the emergent layer and the understory in the Amazon rainforest.

Pupils' own responses, such as: The emergent layer is the top layer of the rainforest and bats, birds and butterflies fly between the trees. The understory is dark and warm. The thick plants help animals camouflage.

8. Summarise what you have learnt about deforestation in the Amazon rainforest in 30 words or fewer.

Pupils' own responses, such as: Deforestation is when large areas of trees are cut down. There are many reasons for it, such as illegal gold mining and building. Reducing deforestation will help climate change.

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What Is in the Amazon Rainforest?

The Amazon rainforest contains millions of different species; scientists state that it is one of the most biologically **diverse** places on Earth. Additionally, it is thought that more than 30 million people live there. Most people who live there follow a lifestyle that combines the modern world. However, some people follow a more traditional lifestyle and rely on nature for food, clothing and medicine.

The Amazon river contains a vast range of fish, including piranhas. Most piranhas are carnivores which have sharp, triangular teeth. The pink river dolphin - which is one of the only freshwater dolphin species in the world - can also be found here.

The rainforest is made up of four layers: emergent, canopy, understory and forest floor. Different species live in each of these layers due to the contrasting conditions.

Emergent Layer

The emergent layer is the top layer of the rainforest. The Brazil nut tree, which can live for hundreds of years, is found here. Animals that glide or fly, such as birds, bats or butterflies, move between the towering trees.



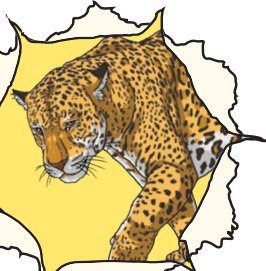
Canopy

Beneath the emergent layer is the canopy. The trees are close together which forms a roof over the other two layers. As there is plenty of food in this layer due to fruit trees, it is where most animals live in the rainforest. Spider monkeys, sloths and toucans are a few of the species that can be found here.



Understory

The understory (which is warm and dimly lit) provides a perfect habitat for frogs who thrive in the moist conditions. The dark environment and thick plants are a great source of camouflage for certain animals, such as the jaguar. Some plants grow large leaves in order to catch any of the rain that trickles down through the canopy.



Forest Floor

The forest floor is very dark, which makes it extremely difficult for any plants to grow, and it is full of rotting matter. Animals, such as anteaters and wild pigs, feast on the different insects that can be found there.



What Are the Threats to the Amazon Rainforest?

The act of deforestation is threatening the beauty and the future of the Amazon. Every minute, an area of trees, which is roughly the same size as five football pitches, is cut down in the Amazon rainforest. There are many reasons for deforestation, such as fires, building and illegal gold mining; however, the leading cause for deforestation in the Amazon is due to farming and the creation of areas for cattle. Due to the rise in deforestation, certain species of animals, such as the hyacinth macaw, are at risk of becoming endangered.

The protection of the Amazon rainforest is extremely important in helping reduce climate change. The rainforest covers a large area and plants remove carbon dioxide - which is harmful to the planet - from the air and release oxygen. Scientists fear that if deforestation in the Amazon rainforest continues to increase, global warming will continue to rise. Many people believe that governments should impose stricter measures to protect the rainforest. It is thought that this may help the natural environment, ensure the survival of different species and help prevent climate change.



Glossary

diverse: Varied or different.

Questions

1. Which of these animals can be found in the canopy? Tick **two**.

- spider monkeys
- anteaters
- wild pigs
- sloths

2. Number the events from 1-4 to show the order in which they appear in the text.

- Different species live in each layer of the rainforest.
- The forest floor is very dark and it is extremely difficult for any plants to grow.
- The Amazon rainforest spans over eight countries in South America.
- Many people believe that governments should impose stricter measures to protect the rainforest.

3. Fill in the missing words.

However, some people follow a more _____ lifestyle and rely on nature for food, clothing and _____.

4. Which layer of the rainforest would you find the Brazil nut tree?

5. Look at the sub-heading called **Understory**.

Find and copy one word which means the same as 'slightly wet' or 'damp'.

6. **Every minute, an area of trees, which is roughly the same size as five football pitches, is cut down in the Amazon rainforest.**

Why do you think the author chose to include this fact?

7. Why do you think jaguars camouflage in the plants in the understory?

8. Compare the different types of animals that live in the emergent layer and the forest floor of the Amazon rainforest.

9. Predict how governments introducing measures to protect the rainforest would help animals.

Answers

1. Which of these animals can be found in the canopy? Tick **two**.

- spider monkeys**
- anteaters
- wild pigs
- sloths**

2. Number the events from 1-4 to show the order in which they appear in the text.

- 2** Different species live in each layer of the rainforest.
- 3** The forest floor is very dark and it is extremely difficult for any plants to grow.
- 1** The Amazon rainforest spans over eight countries in South America.
- 4** Many people believe that governments should impose stricter measures to protect the rainforest.

3. Fill in the missing words.

However, some people follow a more **traditional** lifestyle and rely on nature for food, clothing and **medicine**.

4. Which layer of the rainforest would you find the Brazil nut tree?

The Brazil nut tree is found in the emergent layer of the Amazon rainforest.

5. Look at the sub-heading called **Understory**.

Find and copy one word which means the same as 'slightly wet' or 'damp'.

moist

6. **Every minute, an area of trees, which is roughly the same size as five football pitches, is cut down in the Amazon rainforest.**

Why do you think the author chose to include this fact?

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think the author chose to include this fact about the Amazon rainforest because it emphasises what a big problem deforestation is and how quickly trees are being cut down.

7. Why do you think jaguars camouflage in the plants in the understory?

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think jaguars camouflage in the plants in the understory in order to hide from animals when they are hunting for prey.

8. Compare the different types of animals that live in the emergent layer and the forest floor of the Amazon rainforest.

Pupils' own responses, such as: Animals that fly or glide live in the emergent layer, such as bats or butterflies. There are lots of insects on the forest floor and anteaters and wild pigs eat them.

9. Predict how governments introducing measures to protect the rainforest would help animals.

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that if governments introduced measures to protect the rainforest that many animals' habitats would not be destroyed. Certain species would be less likely to become endangered.

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The Amazon rainforest contains millions of different species; scientists state that it is the one of the most biologically diverse places on Earth. Additionally, it is thought that more than 30 million people live there. Most people who live there follow a lifestyle that incorporates the modern world. However, some people who live in the rainforest follow a more traditional lifestyle and rely on natural resources for food, clothing and medicine.

The Amazon river contains a vast range of fish, including piranhas. Most piranhas are carnivores which have sharp, triangular teeth. The pink river dolphin - which is one of the only freshwater dolphin species in the world - can also be found here.

The rainforest is made up of four layers: emergent, canopy, understory and forest floor. Different species dwell in each of these layers due to the contrasting conditions.

Emergent Layer

The emergent layer is the top layer of the rainforest. The Brazil nut tree, which can live for hundreds of years, is found here. Animals that glide or fly, such as birds, bats or butterflies, move between the towering trees.



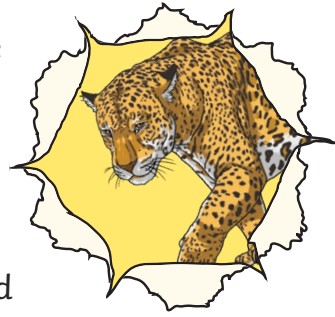
Canopy

Beneath the emergent layer is the canopy. The trees are close together which forms a roof over the other two layers. As there is an abundance of food in this layer due to fruit trees, it is where most animals live in the rainforest. Spider monkeys, sloths and toucans are a few of the species that can be found here.



Understory

The understory (which is warm and dimly-lit) provides a perfect habitat for frogs, who thrive in the moist conditions. The dark environment and thick vegetation are a great source of camouflage for certain animals, such as the jaguar. Some plants grow large leaves in order to catch any of the rain that trickles down through the canopy and others have thick, tough leaves to deter predators. In addition, some plants in this layer are very brightly coloured or have a strong smell; these features of the plants attract animals in order to help pollination and new plants grow.



Forest Floor

The forest floor is very dark, which makes it extremely difficult for any plants to grow, and it is full of decaying matter. Animals, such as anteaters and wild pigs, feast on the different insects that can be found there.



What Are the Threats to the Amazon Rainforest?

The act of deforestation (when large areas of trees are cut down) is threatening the beauty and the future of the Amazon. Every minute, an area which is roughly the same size as five football pitches is cut down in the Amazon rainforest. There are many reasons for deforestation, such as fires, building and illegal gold mining; however, the leading cause for deforestation in the Amazon is the creation of grazing areas for cattle. Due to the rise in deforestation, certain species of animals, such as the hyacinth macaw, are at risk of becoming endangered.

The preservation of the Amazon rainforest is extremely important in helping reduce climate change. The rainforest covers a large area and plants remove carbon dioxide - which is harmful to the planet - from the air and release oxygen. Scientists fear that if deforestation in the Amazon rainforest continues to increase, global warming will continue to rise. While some measures have been implemented to try and protect the rainforests, many people believe that governments should impose stricter action. It is thought that this may help protect the natural environment, ensure the survival of different species and help prevent climate change.

Questions

1. What are some of the reasons for deforestation? Tick **two**.

- water pollution
- illegal gold mining
- melting ice caps
- creation of grazing areas for cattle

2. Draw **four** lines and match each term with its definition.

diverse

dwell

moist

impose

Slightly wet or damp.

Varied or different.

To establish or force something.

To live in.

3. Fill in the missing words.

These _____ of the plants attract animals in order to help _____ and new plants grow.

4. Name **two** animals that you can find in the Amazon river.

- _____
- _____

5. Look at the section under the sub-heading **Canopy**.

Find and copy one word which means the same as 'a lot of'.

6. Why do you think the forest floor is full of decaying matter?

7. **Scientists fear that if deforestation in the Amazon rainforest continues to increase, global warming will continue to rise.**

Why do you think the author chose to include scientists' thoughts in the text?

8. Summarise what you have learnt about the understory of the Amazon rainforest in 30 words or fewer.

9. Predict the impact of teaching people about the threats that face the Amazon rainforest.

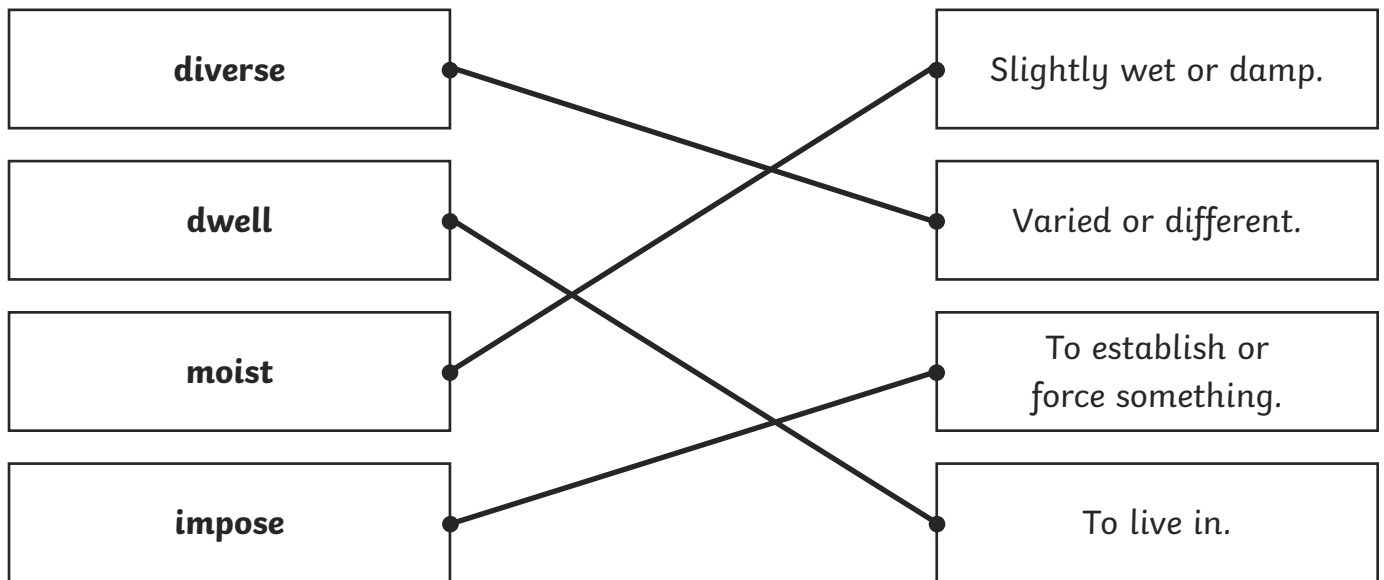
10. Compare the forest floor and the canopy in the Amazon rainforest.

Answers

1. What are some of the reasons for deforestation? Tick **two**.

- water pollution
- illegal gold mining**
- melting ice caps
- creation of grazing areas for cattle**

2. Draw **four** lines and match each term with its definition.



3. Fill in the missing words.

These **features** of the plants attract animals in order to help **pollination** and new plants grow.

4. Name **two** animals that you can find in the Amazon river.

- **piranhas**
- **pink river dolphin**

5. Look at the section under the sub-heading **Canopy**.

Find and copy one word which means the same as 'a lot of'.

abundance

6. Why do you think the forest floor is full of decaying matter?

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think the forest floor is full of decaying matter because flowers, fruit and leaves will drop off trees and plants from the other layers of the rainforest. They will fall on the floor and start to rot.

7. **Scientists fear that if deforestation in the Amazon rainforest continues to increase, global warming will continue to rise.**

Why do you think the author chose to include scientists' thoughts in the text?

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think the author chose to include scientists' thoughts in the text because it shows experts' opinions and emphasises what a big problem deforestation is.

8. Summarise what you have learnt about the understory of the Amazon rainforest in 30 words or fewer.

Pupils' own responses, such as: The understory is dark and warm. Some plants have thick leaves to deter predators and some are brightly coloured to attract animals, which helps pollination.

9. Predict the impact of teaching people about the threats that face the Amazon rainforest.

Pupils' own responses, such as: I predict that teaching people about the threats that face the Amazon rainforest will help create awareness. This should encourage people wanting to help protect the Amazon and create change for the future.

10. Compare the forest floor and the canopy in the Amazon rainforest.

Pupils' own responses, such as: The forest floor is the bottom layer of the rainforest. It is dark and full of decaying matter. The canopy is the second layer and the trees form a roof over the bottom two layers. There are lots of fruit trees here.