

The Amazing Amazon | Geography Focus | Years 5 & 6 | Summer 1

Vocabulary (Goldilocks words)			Where in the world are tropical rainforests?	Key Facts About The Amazon
1	Tropical rainforest	Is a region that grows near the Equator. It has high temperatures and high rainfall. 	<p>Rainforests are found across the world between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn. They occur in Asia, Africa, South America, Northern Australia and on many tropical islands. Put together, they cover about 6% of the planet's land surface - about fifteen million square kilometres! But we've been destroying them fast. They used to cover about 15% of the earth's land surface! The largest of all rainforests, the Amazon in South America, spans eight different countries and still covers an area of almost 5.2 million square kilometres.</p>  <p>Rainforests are found between the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn.</p> 	<p>The Amazon Rainforest is a beautiful place that is full of unique animals, millions of miles of trees, and rare species of plants and bugs – some that haven't even been discovered yet!</p>
2	Deforestation	Is when forests are destroyed by cutting trees (logging) and not replanting them. The most common reason is to clear the land to make farms and ranches for animals. 		<p>The Amazon Rainforest is found in South America, and it goes across many countries such as Brazil, Peru, Ecuador, Venezuela, and Colombia.</p>
3	Logging	The activity of cutting down trees and preparing the wood for use by companies. 	<p>This amazing forest is over 2.2 million square miles large and it is the largest tropical rainforest in the world.</p>	
4	Biodiversity	It refers to all the variety of life that can be found on Earth (plants, animals, fungi and micro-organisms) as well as to the communities that they form and the habitats in which they live. 	<p>There are many types of rare plants that live in the Amazon Rainforest- around 40,000 different kinds to be exact!</p>	
5	Endangered	A species of animal or plant that is seriously at risk of extinction on Earth. 	<p>The Amazon Rainforest is often called "The Lungs of the Earth" because it produces over 20% of the world's oxygen supply thanks to all of its trees.</p>	
6	Carnivorous plant	a plant that gets most of its nutrients from trapping and eating animals or insects. 	<p>In fact, the trees in the rainforest are so thick, the floor of the Amazon is always in complete darkness.</p>	
				<p>When it rains, it takes 10 minutes for the water to go through the leaves and hit the ground.</p>
				<h3>Tribes of the Amazon</h3>  <p>The Amazon is the ancestral home of one million Indians. They are divided into about 400 tribes, each with its own language, culture and territory. The Yanomami is the largest tribe in the Amazon rainforest; others include the Kayapo, Guarani and Xingu tribes. They all rely on the rainforest for their survival and in remote parts of the Amazon there are tribes that have never seen people from the outside world. Over 90 tribes have been completely wiped out in the Amazon alone, as a result of contact with the modern world. Many died out during the time of the Conquistadors, when simple diseases like flu or measles wiped out entire tribes, as they had no natural immunity to diseases they had never encountered before.</p>