

Rumble in the Jungle

Deforestation in Brazil

Key vocabulary

Biodiversity Variety of plant and animal life in a particular habitat, a high level of which is usually considered to be important.

Brazil The largest country in South America.

Deforestation The removal of trees to make room for something that is not a forest.

Ecosystem A community of plants and animals that depend on each other to survive

Endangered A species that has been categorised as very likely to become extinct.

Extinction The extinction of a species of animal or plant is the death of all its remaining living members

Habitat The natural environment where an animal or plant normally lives.

Rainforest Tropical woodland, found typically in hot climate areas with consistently heavy rainfall.

Sustainability Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.



The Amazon Rainforest

The Amazon Rainforest is located in the continent of South America. 60% of the forest is in Brazil, and it also spans across the countries of Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, Venezuela, Guyana and French Guiana.

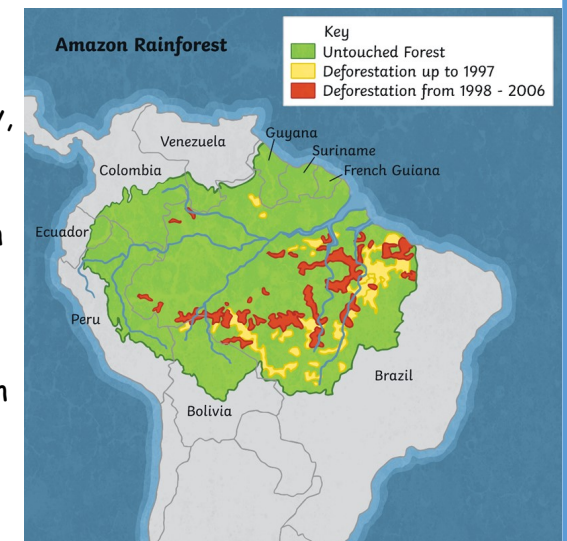
The Amazon is the world's largest rainforest. More species are found here than anywhere else- it is believed to be home to 10% of the world's known biodiversity. Also, the trees of the Amazon Rainforest produce more than 20% of the world's oxygen.

Deforestation in the Amazon

Forests cover 31% of the land area on our planet. They help people thrive and survive by, for example, purifying water and air and providing people with jobs.

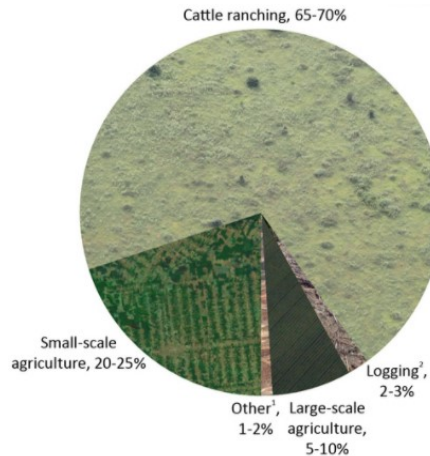
The Amazon is facing more deforestation than anywhere else in the world and interventions are urgently needed to prevent a large-scale, irreversible ecological disaster.

WWF estimates that 27 per cent - more than a quarter - of the Amazon will be without trees by 2030 if the current rate of deforestation continues.



Causes of Deforestation

- Cattle ranching
- To clear space for small-scale and large-scale farming
- To build roads to mine for metals, gold and diamonds
- Chopping down trees for wood
- To dig for oil
- To flood areas to make dams and generate electricity.



Consequences of Deforestation

- Global warming- Chopping down and burning trees releases carbon dioxide, also, fewer trees means that there are less left to absorb this extra carbon dioxide.
- Loss of biodiversity- It is estimated that 137 plants, animal and insect species are lost everyday.
- Soil erosion- Removing the tree cover leaves the soil exposed to heavy rainfall.
- River pollution—Gold mining especially leads to pollution of rivers.
- Decline of tribes—Many indigenous tribes are forced out of their homes or they lose their hunting ground.



Sustainable Rainforest Management

- International agreements- Agreements by a group of countries to try to reduce deforestation
- Conservation and education- training for local people to protect their environments
- Selective logging- loggers remove only the most valuable trees without chopping down others.
- Afforestation- where companies must plant more trees to replace every tree that is cut down
- Forest reserves- areas protected from deforestation by the government
- Agroforestry- where crops are grown within the rainforest
- International awareness- Educating people around the world about their impact and how they can choose to buy more sustainable products.

Related stories

Here are some recommendations of books that you may want to read for pleasure. They are related to the topic.

