

Year 6 Geography – The Amazon

What impact are humans having on the Amazon rainforest?

Physical Features:

- Nine countries share the Amazon basin. 58.4% of the Amazon basin is contained within the borders of Brazil.
- Although there is some debate, most scientists agree that the Amazon is the world's second longest river.
- The river basin, with an average temperature of 26°C and heavy humid and rainfall levels, has a direct impact on the ecosystem.
- The tropical rainforest experiences a humid season throughout the year with no seasons.



The Amazon Rainforest:



Human Features:

- The Amazon is home to more than 30 million people.
- The most widely spoken language in the Amazon is Portuguese.
- Around 400-500 indigenous tribes call the Amazon rainforest home.
- Manaus is the Amazon's largest city where the majority of the population live.

Key Facts:

- 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.
- The Amazon is the world's largest tropical rainforest.
- There are many types of rare plants that live in the Amazon Rainforest- around 40,000 different kinds to be exact!
- Many types of plants have adapted to give off poisonous toxins if an animal should come to close, using it to protect themselves from danger.
- The trees in the rainforest are so thick, the floor of the Amazon is always in complete darkness.
- When it rains, it takes 10 minutes for the water to go through the leaves and hit the ground.

Key Vocabulary:

deforestation	the removal of forest
afforestation	planting forest where there were previously no trees
indigenous people	the first group who are native to an area
ecosystem	a complex group of animals and plants which are connected to their environment and act as one
meander	the description of a river which curves, bends, loops and turns
vegetation	plants found in a specific habitat
biodiversity	the range of different plant and animal life found in a habitat