

Amazon Rainforest



The Amazon Rainforest

The Amazon rainforest is the largest tropical rainforest in the world, covering over five and a half a million square kilometres (1.4 billion acres).

Over half of the Amazon rainforest is located in Brazil but it is also located in other South American countries including Peru, Venezuela, Ecuador, Colombia, Guyana, Bolivia, Suriname and French Guiana.

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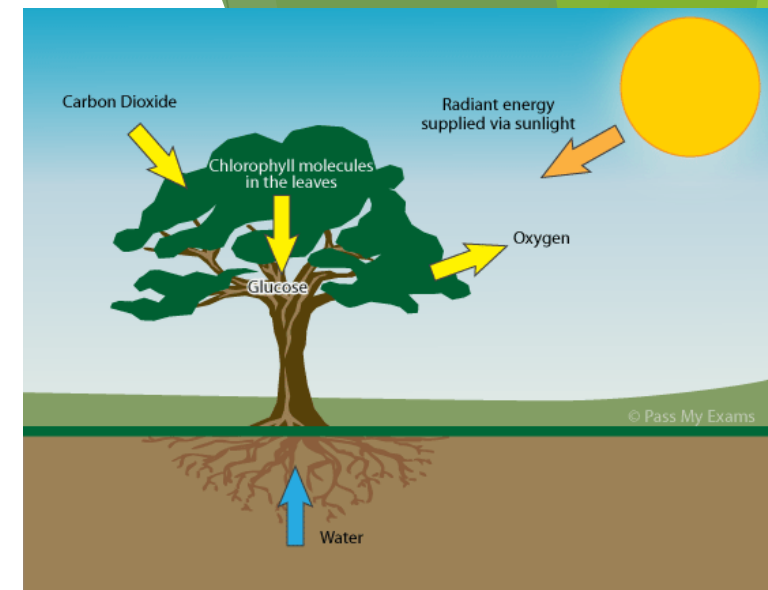
Deforestation



- ▶ Unfortunately though, men are destroying the rainforests for profit. An area around the size of 36 football pitches of rainforest is cut down every single minute of every day.
- ▶ But what is deforestation?
- ▶ <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yvdfqrnvu6Q>
- ▶ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-01T9e6VDWU>

The benefits of trees.

- ▶ Trees are necessary for our survival. Through photosynthesis, trees produce the gas we cannot do without; Oxygen. As we breathe in, we take in oxygen and breathe out carbon dioxide. Trees take in that carbon dioxide and turn it back into oxygen.
- ▶ Trees support biodiversity. Rainforests are home to thousands upon thousands of different living organisms that rely on each other for survival. Think back to what we know about food chains.



Why do people

Forests are a source of a number of resources

- ▶ Harvesting timber and other forest products
- ▶ Clearing land for agriculture and cattle
- ▶ Clearing land for housing and infrastructure



The real cost of deforestation.



- ▶ Species of animals become extinct as their ecosystem has become damaged and their homes have been destroyed.
- ▶ We have too much carbon dioxide, which is harmful to the earth's atmosphere.
- ▶ Floods. The roots of trees absorb much of the water that falls. Without trees, the water has nowhere to go. This causes water to remain on the surface and flooding occurs. Due to floods, animals and humans' homes become damaged, leaving them homeless.

What are the problems with Deforestation?

- ▶ Surely people making money is a good thing. People open factories such as paper mills or energy plants which then creates hundreds if not thousands of jobs for people.
- ▶ Farms provide us with milk, meat, fruit and veg, corn etc. So Surely they too are a good thing.
- ▶ It clears land for people to create towns, villages and therefore creates homes for people.
- ▶ Because of the trees, some areas of the country were inaccessible. When the trees are cleared, goods can be transported far more easily.



What do you think?

- ▶ Is deforestation right?
- ▶ Do you agree that cutting down trees is necessary?
- ▶ What about peoples jobs?
- ▶ How could we avoid deforestation?