

Geography Homework

Can you read these facts about the Amazon Rainforest?

The Amazon Rainforest

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Where Is the Amazon Rainforest?

The Amazon rainforest reaches across eight countries in South America.

It is the world's largest rainforest and over 24 times the size of the United Kingdom!

It is hot and has a large amount of rainfall.

What Is in the Amazon Rainforest?

The Amazon rainforest contains millions of different species of plants and animals. It is thought that more than 30 million people also live there. The rainforest is made up of four layers which are the emergent, canopy, understory and forest floor.

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.



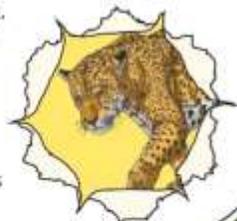
Canopy

Beneath the emergent layer is the canopy. The trees are close together which forms a roof over the layers below. Most animals live here because there is plenty of food due to the fruit trees. Spider monkeys, sloths and toucans can be found here.



Understory

The understory is warm and dark. The thick plants are excellent for some animals to **camouflage**, 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 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?

Deforestation is a serious problem for the future of the Amazon rainforest. This is when large areas of trees are cleared. An area roughly the same size as five football pitches is cut down every minute. There are many reasons for this, such as fires, building, **illegal** gold mining and farming.

Scientists believe that it is important to look after the Amazon rainforest in order to help protect the planet. Carbon dioxide is harmful to the air and plants remove this and release oxygen. Some animals' habitats have been lost and some animals are at risk of becoming endangered. Many people believe that governments should do more to protect the Amazon.

Glossary

camouflage: To blend in with the surroundings.

illegal: Against the law.

