

LO: To plot the
location of the
Amazon rainforest
on a map of South
America



Amazon rainforest

- ▶ The Amazon rainforest is located in South America and covers 2.1 million square miles of land. Brazil has 60%, Peru has 13%, and Colombia has 10% while other countries have very small parts of the rainforest within their borders. Altogether there are nine nations that enjoy all that the Amazon rainforest has to offer. The Amazon rainforest has existed for at least 55 million years. The Amazon rainforest is home to a very diverse range of species, many of which are not found elsewhere in the world.

Facts

- ▶ The Amazon rainforest is a moist, broadleaf forest.
- ▶ It covers most of the Amazon Basin in South America. The basin is 2.7 million square miles while the Amazon covers 2.1 million square miles of it. If the Amazon rainforest was a country, it would rank 9th in size.
- ▶ The nine nations that have the Amazon rainforest in their borders are: Brazil, Peru, Colombia, Venezuela, Ecuador, Bolivia, Guyana, Suriname and French Guiana.
- ▶ The Amazon rainforest accounts for more than half of the entire world's remaining rainforests.
- ▶ The Amazon rainforest is home to 10% of the known species in the world.
- ▶ The Amazon rainforest is home to more than 1500 of the bird species in the world.

Facts

- ▶ There are over 40,000 different plant species and approximately 2.5 million insect species in the Amazon rainforest.
- ▶ Due to efforts to fight deforestation in the Amazon, rates have been reducing slightly, but it is still an issue today.
- ▶ The droughts in 2005 and 2010 destroyed huge amounts of vegetation in the areas worst affected.
- ▶ It's estimated that if the climate change were to increase the world's temperature by only 3 degrees Celsius then 75% of the Amazon would be destroyed.
- ▶ The Amazon rainforest is also referred to as the 'Lungs of the Planet' because it produces more than 20% of the world's oxygen.
- ▶ There are approximately 10 million species of animals, plants and insects known to man and more than half of them call the rainforest home.

Facts

- ▶ There are approximately 3000 fruits that grow in the rainforest that are edible.
- ▶ Many plants around the world have medicinal qualities. Of the plants known to have anti-cancer properties, 70% are found in the rainforest. Amazon natives use rainforest plants regularly but 90% of the ones they use have not been studied by modern science.
- ▶ In 1500 there were between 6 and 9 million Amazon natives. Today there are only an estimated 250,000 left. There are approximately 170 different languages spoken by the Amazon natives.
- ▶ It is believed that there may still be as many as 50 Amazon native tribes living in the rainforest that have never been in contact with the rest of the world.
- ▶ There are many dangerous species of snakes, spiders and animals in the Amazon rainforest. It is also home to the anaconda.
- ▶ The Amazon River is considered to be the life force of the Amazon rainforest.
- ▶ The toucan is the loudest creature in the Amazon. You can hear it as far as a half mile away.
- ▶ There are vampire bats in the Amazon rainforest as well as poisonous dart frogs.
- ▶ If you were caught in the rain in the Amazon you would have about 10 minutes to find your umbrella. The trees are so tightly packed that it can take 10 minutes for the rain to reach the ground below.



CARIBBEAN SEA

ATLANTIC OCEAN

VENEZUELA

GUYANA

SURINAME

French Guiana*
(FRANCE)

COLOMBIA

ECUADOR

Amazon River

Amazon
Rainforest

PERU

BRAZIL

PACIFIC OCEAN

BOLIVIA

SOUTH AMERICA



Tasks

Complete the map of South America with:

- name labels for each country;
- the names of the oceans around South America.

Colour in the Amazon rainforest with a green pencil.

Complete the map of South America with:

- name labels for each country;
- the location of the Amazon rainforest marked in green;
- the names of the oceans around South America

Complete the map of South America with:

- name labels for each country;
- the location of the Amazon rainforest marked in green;
- the location of the Amazon river in blue;
- the names of the oceans around South America.

Questions for everyone to answer in books

- ▶ How many countries does the Amazon rainforest cover completely?
- ▶ How many countries are partly covered by the Amazon rainforest?
- ▶ Which ocean is touched by the rainforest?
- ▶ Find out what the area of the Amazon rainforest is in square kilometres.

How many countries does the Amazon rainforest cover completely? **2**

How many countries are **partly** covered by the Amazon rainforest? **7**

Which ocean is touched by the Amazon rainforest? **Atlantic Ocean**

