

Teacher Resource

Amazon Fires

Episode 25
3rd September 2019

Focus Questions

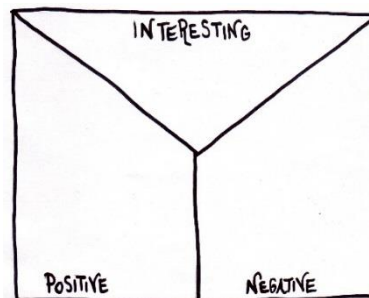
1. Discuss the *Amazon Fires* story as a class and record the main points of the discussion.
2. Where is the Amazon rainforest? Find using Google Maps.
3. Which South American country has most of the Amazon rainforest?
4. Complete the following sentence. The Amazon is the most biologically _____ place on Earth.
5. How far away can the smoke from the fires in the Amazon be seen?
6. What Brazilian city was covered by so much smoke the skies went dark like night time?
7. What harmful gas is being produced by the fires?
8. How did the fires start?
9. The Amazon acts as a carbon sponge. What does this mean?
10. How have people reacted to the fires in the Amazon rainforest?

Activity

Note taking

Students will practise their note-taking skills while watching the BTN *Amazon Fires* story. After watching the story, ask students to reflect on and organise the information into three categories. What information in the story was...?

- Positive
- Negative or
- Interesting



Activity

Class Discussion

Hold a class discussion about the issues raised in the BTN story. Use the following questions to help guide discussion:

- What do you know about the Amazon rainforest?
- Why is the Amazon rainforest special? Brainstorm a list of features that make it unique.
- Why is the Amazon rainforest in danger?
- Why do we need to protect the Amazon rainforest?

Key Learning

Students will investigate the importance of the Amazon rainforest and what makes it unique.

AC Curriculum

Science – Year 4

Living things have life cycles.

Living things depend on each other and the environment to survive.

Science knowledge helps people to understand the effect of their actions.

Science – Year 5

Scientific knowledge is used to solve problems and inform personal and community decisions.

Science – Year 6

The growth and survival of living things are affected by physical conditions of their environment.

Science – Year 7

Interactions between organisms, including the effects of human activities can be represented by food chains and food webs.

Activity

Glossary

Students will brainstorm a list of key words that relate to the BTN *Amazon Fires* story. Students may want to use pictures and diagrams to illustrate the meaning and create their own glossary. Here are some words to get them started.

Ecosystem	Deforestation	Biodiversity
Habitat	Species	Rainforest

Activity

Amazon Rainforest Research

The Amazon rainforest is one of the most biodiverse ecosystems in the world. Students will investigate the crucial role the Amazon rainforest has in keeping the planet healthy. They can develop their own key questions to investigate or respond to one or more of the questions below. Students can complete the following KWLH organiser to explore their knowledge on the Amazon rainforest and consider what they would like to know and learn.

<i>What do I <u>k</u>now?</i>	<i>What do I <u>w</u>ant to know?</i>	<i>What have I <u>l</u>earnt?</i>	<i><u>H</u>ow will I find out?</i>

Here are some possible questions for students to research:

- What makes the Amazon rainforest unique?
- What role does the Amazon rainforest have in keeping the planet healthy?
- What are the effects and consequences of deforestation in the Amazon?
- Who do you think should be responsible for looking after the Amazon rainforest?

Students can present the information in one of the following ways:

- A 'Did You Know' Facts sheet
- [Prezi](#) presentation
- Oral presentation
- An infographic using [Canva](#)

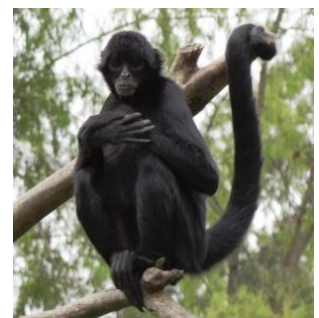
Activity

Amazon Animal Profile

Students will choose an animal from the Amazon rainforest to study in detail.

Here are some suggestions:

- Black Spider Monkey
- Pink River Dolphin
- Peanut Head Bug
- Glass Frog
- Jaguar



Students can use the profile worksheet at the end of this activity to organise and present their information.

- Common and scientific name
- Appearance - what are some of their physical characteristics?
- Threats - what are some of the threats to their survival?
- Why it is important to the Amazon rainforest?
- Adaptations and interesting features



Activity

Reporter for a Day

Students will be a reporter for a day. Students will investigate the issues highlighted in the *BTN Amazon Fires* story and write a newspaper article or online news report for kids.

Things to think about:

- Think about the language and tone you will use in your report. Is it appropriate for a young audience?
- Write a headline that is short and to the point.
- Use words and pictures in your report. Use captions for any photos included in your report.
- Find information from a variety of sources
- Present the facts and/or opinions clearly and accurately.

Activity

Quiz

Students will create a quiz about the Amazon rainforest using [Kahoot!](#). Quizzes can be created to recap learning or test personal knowledge. There is also the option to connect with classrooms around the world and play kahoot in real time.



Useful Websites

ABC News – Amazon rainforest fire: Five things you need to know

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-08-24/amazon-fire-brazil-five-things-you-need-to-know/11444188>

CBBC Newsround – Amazon fires: Brazil's army tackles record numbers of rainforest fires

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/49435987>

CBBC Newsround – Amazon rainforest: Football-pitch-sized area cleared every minute

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/48836955>



Amazon Animal Profile

Common Name:

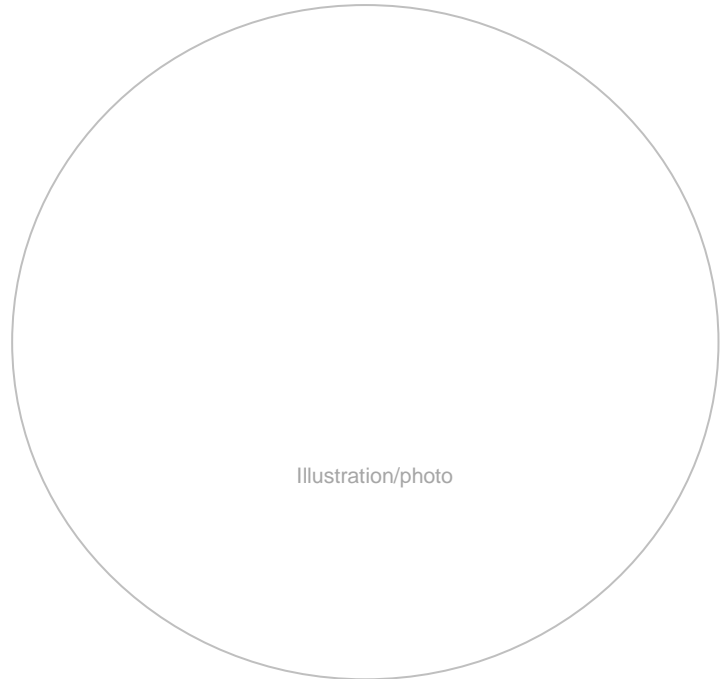
Scientific Name:

Life Span:

Size:

Threats to species:

Adaptations:



Habitat:

Behaviour:

Interesting features or facts:

Why it's important to the Amazon: