

# Oddizzi World Explorers

KS2 Week 8 - Physical features



## Login details

To access online resources please go to [www.oddizzi.com/school/login](http://www.oddizzi.com/school/login)

**Oddizzi subscribers:** Use your oddizzi class login and password.

## Map skills

How many world rivers can you name?

Look at each name of a river at the bottom of your **world rivers** map and decide which country they might be located in. Label it on the map.

## Online investigator



Login to [www.oddizzi.com](http://www.oddizzi.com) and click on *explore the world - physical features - stages and features*

Read through each section to understand the different stages of a river. Fill in what you have found on your **Stages and features of a river** sheet.

## Quiz time

Login to [www.oddizzi.com](http://www.oddizzi.com).

Click on **Quiz** at the top of the page. Find the **Rivers** quiz and the **Rainforests** quiz. We suggest trying **Level 2**. See how many points you can score!

## Putting pen to paper

Login to [www.oddizzi.com](http://www.oddizzi.com) and click on *explore the world - physical features - biomes - rainforests - deforestation*

Write a persuasive letter to a president of a logging company in the Amazon, to try and limit deforestation.

## What if...

Discuss this made up scenario with your family over breakfast or dinner.

**What if...the world grew much more rainforest than it lost?**



## Watch this

Login to [www.oddizzi.com](http://www.oddizzi.com) and click on *explore the world - physical features - biomes - rainforests - world rainforests*

**Watch:** World rainforests

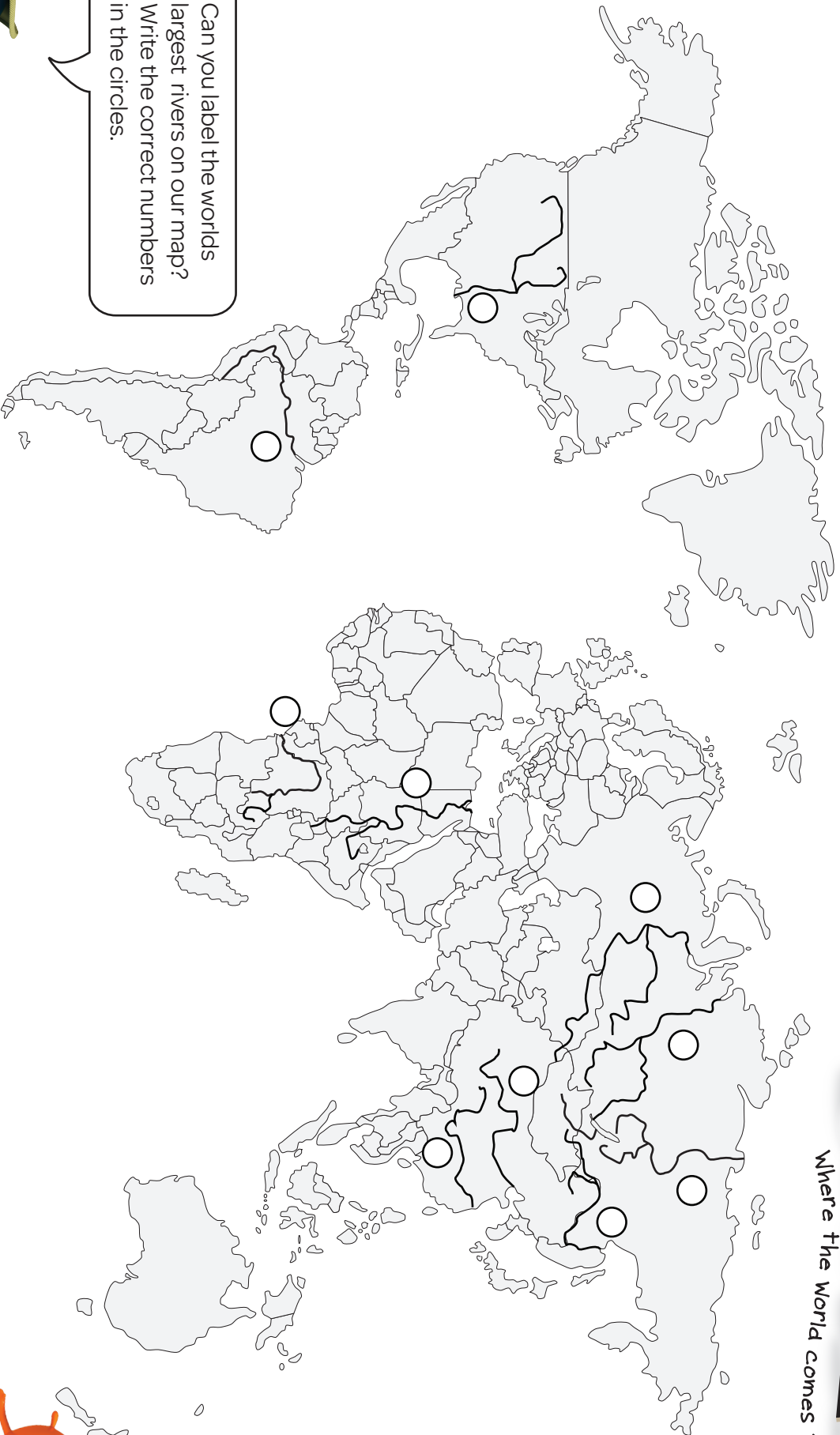
List the many reasons the Amazon Rainforest is important for the world.

## Read it

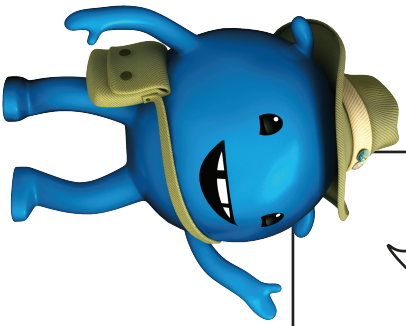
Read the news article **Save the Amazon!**

Use the text to help you answer the questions that follow.

# 4. World Rivers



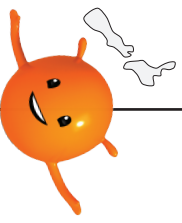
Can you label the worlds largest rivers on our map? Write the correct numbers in the circles.



## Rivers

1. Amazon
2. Amur
3. Congo
4. Lena
5. Mississippi
6. Nile
7. Ob-Irtys
8. Yangtze
9. Yellow
10. Yenisei

You can also colour in the map!



**Objective:** To locate the 10 longest river in the world on a map  
**Challenge:** Find out the length of each of these rivers in metres and kilometres

# Big Ideas – Stages and Features of Rivers



**Instructions:** Read about the different stages and watch the films. Write down three important pieces of information from the sections on the Upper Course, Middle Course and Lower Course.

oddizzi.com | Physical Features - Rivers - Stages

## Upper Course

- 1 \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 \_\_\_\_\_

## Middle Course

- 1 \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 \_\_\_\_\_

## Lower Course

- 1 \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 \_\_\_\_\_

1) Where is a waterfall most likely to form?

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2) What was the most surprising thing you read?

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Welcome to Oddizzi's Key Stage 2 guided reading resources. In this pack you will find differentiated non-fiction texts, with varied follow-up activities and teacher answer sheets. Topics for these texts are aligned with the new Geography National Curriculum.

These resources would work beautifully during a guided reading session with lower Key Stage 2 students, or for pupils in upper Key Stage 2 to use during independent or shared reading. The texts make for strong exemplars to use when studying news articles, persuasive and informative texts. These resources can equally be used during geography lessons.

The two texts have similar content, but are written for different reading levels. The simpler text is identified by the '**Core Text**' note in the footer, while the more challenging text is marked with '**Extension Text**'. The three follow-up activities can be used with both texts.

**There are three different follow-up activities.**

- 1) YOUR MISSION is a basic comprehension activity incorporating true/false, multiple choice and short answer.
- 2) OBSERVER ODD'S MISSION includes more challenging comprehension questions to be answered in full sentences.
- 3) INSPECTOR IZZI'S MISSION incorporates higher order thinking questions including inferring, making connections and predicting. These questions would be great to discuss during guided reading.

Included at the end of Odd's and IZZI's missions are extra cross-curricular activities that support multiple intelligences.

**PACKS**

<b>Texts</b>	<b>Related Topics</b>	<b>Text Form</b>
Ready, Get Set, Go... to Rio!	South America, Brazil, Olympics	Persuasive
Tour the Rockies!	North America, mountains, economic activity	Persuasive
UK Energy Fact-File	United Kingdom, energy, resources	Informative
The River Nile Fact-File	(Ancient and modern) Egypt, rivers	Informative
Save the Amazon!	South America, Brazil, rainforests	News article
Second Earthquake Hits Nepal	Asia, Nepal, earthquakes, natural disasters	News article
Fairtrade Fact-File	Fairtrade, food, farming, economic activity, Global Marketplace	Informative

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# Save the Amazon!

By Odd & Izzi

Geography reporters, The Oddizzi Times

1 hour ago | News

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The Amazon rainforest is in Brazil

## The Amazon rainforest is being cleared at an alarming rate, say environmentalists.

It's the home of the hyacinth macaw, jaguar, piranha and poison dart frog. The Amazon is the world's largest rainforest and covers a huge area of South America – but for how long?

Over the last 30 years the area of the Amazon within Brazil has shrunk in size by a fifth.

### How is this happening?

People are clearing the forest. Logging takes place in the Amazon because of the valuable trees that grow there. Cedar and mahogany are just two kinds of trees that are being cut down. People also start fires in the Amazon, to clear land they would like to farm. In most cases, setting fires in the forest is against the law.

Soya beans grow well in the climate of the Amazon. Cattle farming is also big business.

At least 20 million people live in the Amazon in Brazil. Many live in poverty, on just a few dollars a day. So who can blame Brazilians for using their country's natural resources to make their lives better?

*World Wildlife Fund: '20 million people live in the Brazilian Amazon'*

## International charities, like Greenpeace and the World Wildlife Fund, worry that the Amazon is being cleared too quickly. Why?

Many, many different kinds of wildlife live in this type of environment.

As the rainforest is being cleared so rapidly, conservation experts say we don't know enough about what we are losing. Only a tiny fraction of rainforest plants have been studied so far.

*Scientist: 'It's like destroying a book we haven't yet read.'*



The hyacinth macaw is one of the Amazon's endangered animals.



Cattle ranches cover much of the land that has been cleared.



Evidence of logging and fire damage in the Amazon.





## Farmland not fertile for long

New farmland, created by clearing areas of rainforest, isn't good to grow crops on for long. This is because when you take away the trees, you also lose the source of the rotting leaf litter that helped the soil stay fertile.

Forest clearance has also been linked to changing weather patterns, including falling rainfall figures (less rainfall falling!), on farmland where rainforest once stood.

## Lungs of our planet

And then there's climate change. The Amazon rainforest covers 5,500,000 square kilometres – it's over half the size of Europe. Nicknamed the lungs of our planet, plants in the Amazon produce one-fifth of the Earth's oxygen. The intense, year-round sunshine at the Equator creates a perfect home for plants: trees grow tall, up to 70 metres in height!

Oxygen is released during photosynthesis and carbon dioxide, a climate-changing gas, is absorbed by growing plants. So, say environmentalists, the Amazon is important for everyone, no matter where they live.

Greenpeace: ***'Brazil must take the lead.'***

## More than half of the Amazon is in Brazil

Because of its size, the Brazilian National Institute of Space Research uses satellite images to keep track of deforestation. Forest protection police travel thousands of miles by helicopter to reach remote areas of the dense jungle to shut down the camps of illegal loggers.

But, say environmentalists, Brazil's government is still not doing enough.



*Timber factory in the Amazon*



*Police in helicopters can spot fires and areas cleared illegally.*

## Glossary

**Biodiversity** The number of different types of plants and animals found in a particular environment (eco-system).

**Carbon dioxide** A climate-changing gas found in our atmosphere. Human activity has released (emitted) too much carbon dioxide over the past few hundred years, changing our climate.

**Deforestation** The cutting down or clearing of trees and other plants from an area of forest.

**Illegal** Against the law.

**Rainforests** Forests that are home to many different types of plants and animals. They are located close to the Equator in places with a tropical climate, which is warm and wet all year-round.

**Photosynthesis** This scientific word comes from two Greek words: 'photo' (meaning 'light') and 'synthesis' (meaning 'putting together'). The two words combined mean 'putting together using light'. This describes the way plants use the sun's energy to make the food they need to grow. Plants also need carbon dioxide and water to photosynthesize.

**Poverty** People who don't have enough food to eat, little or no shelter and few belongings live in poverty.



# Save the Amazon!

By Odd & Izzi

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*follow us on [oddizzi.com](http://oddizzi.com)*



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It's the home of the hyacinth macaw, jaguar, piranha and poison dart frog. The Amazon is the world's largest rainforest and covers a huge area of South America – but for how long?

Over the last 30 years the area of the Amazon within Brazil has shrunk in size by a fifth.

### How is this happening?

People are clearing the forest. Logging takes place in the Amazon because of the valuable trees that grow there. Cedar and mahogany are just two kinds of trees that have been cut down and sold by logging companies working in the region for many years. People also start fires in the Amazon, to clear land they would like to farm. In most cases, setting fires in the forest is against the law.

Soya beans grow well in the climate of the Amazon. Cattle farming is also big business.

At least 20 million people live in the Amazon in Brazil. Many live in poverty, on just a few dollars a day. So who can blame Brazilians for using their country's natural resources to make their lives better?

*World Wildlife Fund: '20 million people live in the Brazilian Amazon'*

## International charities, like Greenpeace and the World Wildlife Fund, worry that the Amazon is being cleared too quickly. Why?

Firstly, scientists studying different ecosystems around the world have found that the rainforest eco-system is 'top of the tree' for biodiversity. Many, many different kinds of wildlife live in this type of environment.

As the rainforest is being cleared so rapidly, conservation experts say we don't know enough about what we are losing. Only a tiny fraction of rainforest plants have been studied so far.

*Scientist: 'It's like destroying a book we haven't yet read.'*



*The hyacinth macaw is one of the Amazon's endangered animals.*



*Cattle ranches cover much of the land that has been cleared.*



*Evidence of logging and fire damage in the Amazon.*



New farmland, created by clearing areas of rainforest, isn't good to grow crops on for long. This is because when you take away the trees, you also lose the source of the rotting leaf litter that helped the soil stay fertile. Take away the trees, and you've also lost the rotting leaf litter that was the secret of its success.

Recently, researchers have also linked forest clearance to changing weather patterns, including falling rainfall figures (less rainfall falling!), on farmland where rainforest once stood.

### Important for everyone

And then there's climate change. The Amazon rainforest covers 5,500,000 square kilometres – it's over half the size of Europe. Nicknamed the 'lungs of our planet', plants in the Amazon produce one-fifth of the Earth's oxygen. The intense, year-round sunshine at the Equator creates a perfect home for plants: trees grow tall, up to 70 metres in height! Oxygen is released as part of this process of photosynthesis and carbon dioxide, a climate-changing gas, is absorbed by growing plants – so, say environmentalists, the Amazon is important for everyone, no matter where they live.

Greenpeace: **'Brazil must take the lead.'**

More than half of the Amazon is in Brazil, although the forest stretches beyond Brazil's borders into eight other countries: Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, French Guiana, Guyana, Peru, Suriname and Venezuela.

Because of its size, the Brazilian National Institute of Space Research uses satellite images to keep track of deforestation. Forest protection police travel thousands of miles by helicopter to reach remote areas of the dense jungle to shut down the camps of illegal loggers.

But, say environmentalists, Brazil's government is still not doing enough. They claim the rate of deforestation is still too fast and suggest that we don't really understand what we are losing. 'It's like destroying a book we haven't yet read' is a common phrase used to describe the disappearance of the world's most famous rainforest.



*Timber factory in the Amazon*



*Police in helicopters can spot fires and areas cleared illegally.*

### Glossary

**Biodiversity** The number of different types of plants and animals found in a particular environment (eco-system).

**Carbon dioxide** A climate-changing gas found in our atmosphere. Human activity has release (emitted) too much carbon dioxide over the past few hundred years, changing our climate.

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**Illegal** Against the law.

**Rainforests** Forests that are home to many different types of plants and animals. They are located close to the Equator in places with a tropical climate, which is warm and wet all year-round.

**Photosynthesis** Can be literally translated from the Greek words from light 'photo' and putting together or 'synthesis' meaning putting together, using light. This scientific term describes the way plants use the sun's energy to make their own food to grow. Plants also need carbon dioxide and water to photosynthesize.

**Poverty** People who don't have enough food to eat, little or no shelter and few belongings live in poverty.





1. Draw yourself in the circle to become a detective!
2. Answer the questions below to complete your mission.

**A. Tick 'true' or 'false' for the statements below.**

Statements	True	False
1. The Amazon rainforest is growing in size.		
2. Cedar and mahogany are types of trees.		
3. The Amazon rainforest covers a huge area of Africa.		

**B. Circle the correct answer.**

4. A crop is mentioned that grows well in the climate of the Amazon. Which?

- a. Wheat
- b. Corn
- c. Soya beans

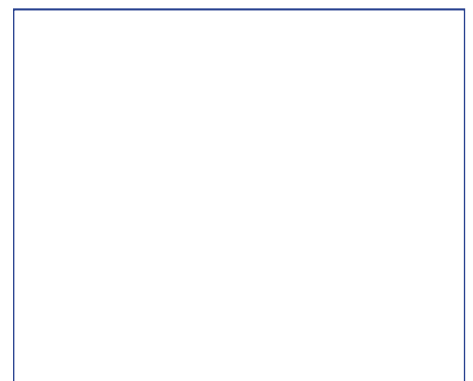
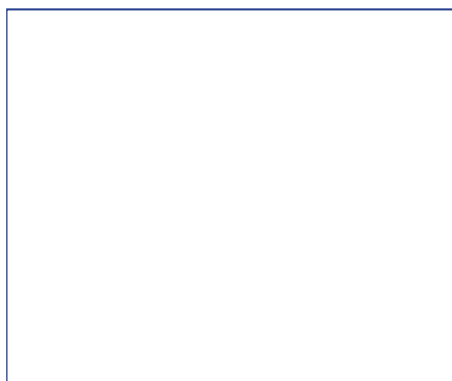
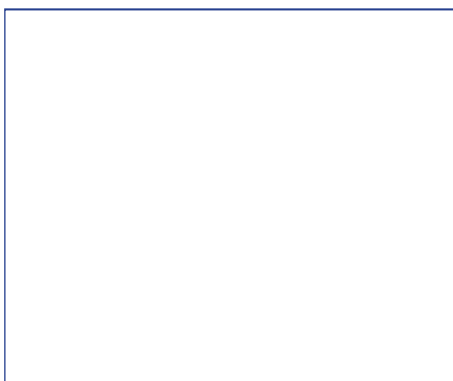
5. What is the term for the clearing of rainforests?

- a. Destruction
- b. Deforestation
- c. Hacking

6. How do the forest police reach the remote areas of the rainforest?

- a. By helicopter
- b. By foot
- c. By train

**C. Draw three animals found in the Amazon rainforest.**



**D. Why do you think the Amazon rainforest should be protected?**

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**Observer Odd needs your help!**

His mission is to write a report on the facts presented in *Save the Amazon!*

Answer the questions below in full sentences so that he can use the information in his report.

1. Where is the Amazon rainforest located?

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2. Give two reasons why the Amazon rainforest is being cleared.

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3. Make a list of the groups of people that are helping or hurting the Amazon rainforest. Put them into a table, with one column labelled 'helping' and another column labelled 'hurting'.

4. What does 'logging' mean? Can you use this word in a sentence?

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5. What is a 'charity'?

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**Inspector Izzi has a new job and needs a hand!**

Her task is to write a detailed analysis of *Save the Amazon!* She needs you to help her read 'between the lines' and answer the questions below in full sentences.

1. Why do you think the author chose to write this article?

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2. Find a quote that features in the news report and write it below.

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3. Think about the phrase: 'It's like destroying a book we haven't yet read'. Why do you think this phrase was included in the news report about the Amazon?

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4. Some human activities are harming our planet. Give some examples.

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**EXTRA MISSIONS:**

1. Write a letter to the president of a logging company in the Amazon. Try to persuade the president to limit the number of trees that are being cut down. Make sure to use persuasive language and give three reasons why the logging should be limited.
2. In a small group, create a short play that shows why the Amazon rainforest is shrinking.
3. In a small group, create a PSA (public service announcement) to raise awareness about what is happening to the Amazon. The goal of your PSA is to let people know what is happening and to try to stop it.



1. Draw yourself in the circle to become a detective!
2. Answer the questions below to complete your mission.

**A. Tick 'true' or 'false' for the statements below.**

Statements	True	False
1. The Amazon rainforest is growing in size.		<b>X</b>
2. Cedar and mahogany are types of trees.	<b>X</b>	
3. The Amazon rainforest covers a huge area of Africa.		<b>X</b>

**B. Circle the correct answer.**

4. A crop is mentioned that grows well in the climate of the Amazon. Which?

- a. Wheat
- b. Corn
- c. **Soya beans**

5. What is the term for the clearing of rainforests?

- a. Destruction
- b. **Deforestation**
- c. Hacking

6. How do the forest police reach the remote areas of the rainforest?

- a. **By helicopter**
- b. By foot
- c. By train

**C. Draw three animals found in the Amazon rainforest.**

Hyacinth macaw  
Jaguar  
Piranha  
Poison dart frog  
Etc.

**D. Why do you think the Amazon rainforest should be protected?**

**Examples of topics to discuss:**

To preserve: habitats, local tribe communities, the world's water cycle, food supply, oxygen etc.

Discover new species, food and medicines.




**Observer Odd needs your help!**

His mission is to write a report on the facts presented in *Save the Amazon!*

Answer the questions below in full sentences so that he can use the information in his report.

1. Where is the Amazon rainforest located?

Skills/Locational Knowledge question: Brazil, South America. Other answers may mention other South American countries including Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, French Guiana and Guyana, Peru, Suriname and Venezuela **(though no further info in the text)**.

2. Give two reasons why the Amazon rainforest is being cleared.

1) Logging takes place so that valuable wood from the trees can be sold.

2) People start fires to clear land they would like to farm.

3. Make a list of the groups of people that are helping or hurting the Amazon rainforest. Put them into a table, with one column labelled 'helping' and another column labelled 'hurting'.

Helping	Hurting
Greenpeace	Loggers
World Wildlife Fund	People setting fires
Forest protection police	

4. What does 'logging' mean? Can you use this word in a sentence?

**Logging:** Cutting down trees and preparing the timber.

Example sentence: International charities are trying to reduce illegal logging in the Amazon.

5. What is a 'charity'?

An organisation that helps those in need.


**Inspector Izzi has a new job and needs a hand!**

Her task is to write a detailed analysis of *Save the Amazon!* She needs you to help her read 'between the lines' and answer the questions below in full sentences.

1. Why do you think the author chose to write this article?

To provide the audience with current information on what is happening in the Amazon rainforest.

To raise awareness.

2. Find a quote that features in the news report and write it below.

Answers will vary.

3. Think about the phrase: 'It's like destroying a book we haven't yet read'. Why do you think this phrase was included in the news report about the Amazon?

This phrase was used because parts of the Amazon are being destroyed without knowing about their biodiversity - the range of plants and animals living there - and whether or not they are of use to people.

4. Some human activities are harming our planet. Give some examples.

**Possible topics to discuss:** Deforestation, pollution of the atmosphere, rivers and oceans (driving cars, oil spills, litter), climate change and the burning of fossil fuels, over-fishing and bycatch (dolphins caught in nets), disposal of waste and landfill, etc.

**EXTRA MISSIONS:**

- Write a letter to the president of a logging company in the Amazon. Try to persuade the president to limit the number of trees that are being cut down. Make sure to use persuasive language and give three reasons why the logging should be limited.
- In a small group, create a short play that shows why the Amazon rainforest is shrinking.
- In a small group, create a PSA (public service announcement) to raise awareness about what is happening to the Amazon. The goal of your PSA is to let people know what is happening and to try to stop it.