

Protecting the Ecuadorian Rainforest



The Amazon region of Ecuador is found in the eastern part of the country. Of the four geographical regions of country (Amazon, Highlands, Coast and Galapagos), it is the largest in area. It is one of the most biodiverse places on the planet, with thousands of species of plants and animals. It is a natural treasure for the country and the world. There are five national parks in this region: Yasuni, Cayambe-Coca, Llanganates, Sumaco Napo-Galeras, and Río Negro-Sopladora.

This beautiful region is in danger. There is a lot of oil (near 800 million barrels) in the ground of the Ecuadorian Amazon. If oil companies remove this oil from the ground, the ecosystem will be disturbed. It can harm the plants and animals. Some indigenous groups of the region, especially the Waorani, have fought and won important legal battles to preserve the land. But this fight is far from finished. There are constant attempts by oil companies to drill in the region. There are also instances of illegal deforestation in the region. As long as there continues to be strong opposition to this, there is hope that the Amazon region of Ecuador will remain protected.

Adapted from: <http://www.shiripunolodge.com/10-amazing-facts-amazon-rainforest-ecuador/>

a. Read the passage again and choose true or false.

1. The Amazon region of Ecuador is found in the western part of the country.

True

False

2. There are five geographical regions in the country.

True

False

3. It is a natural treasure for the country and the world.

True

False

4. If oil companies remove this oil from the ground, the ecosystem will be disturbed.

True

False

5. It can harm the plants and animals.

True

False

6. There are four national parks in this region: Cayambe-Coca, Llanganates, Sumaco, Napo-Galeras, and Rio Negro-Sopladora.

True

False

b. Read and match the topics with each paragraph.

FIVE THING WE CAN DO TO SAVE THE AMAZON

Volunteer your time

Share Amazon news on social media

Eliminate deforestation from your diet

Support indigenous communities

Buy responsibly sourced products

1

It may not be well known, but many of the food we eat are grown on deforested lands. For example, beef, soybean, and palm oil are main drivers of deforestation in the Amazon. Fortunately, we can limit our contribution to these destructive industries. Reduce your meat intake and buy your meat from local farms that use sustainable practices. Check your food product labels for soy or palm oil ingredients and buy alternatives when possible. Choosing sustainably produced foods and products forces companies to change their practices.

2

Choosing products that are responsibly sourced or made from recycled materials can go a long way to curbing tropical deforestation. For example, mining for precious metals is a leading cause of deforestation and river pollution in the Amazon.

3

Buying artisanal and fair-trade products made by indigenous people is a unique and effective way to protect rainforests and sustainable livelihoods. Next time you travel, consider visiting communities through ecotourism. Ecotourism gives you an opportunity to learn about new cultures and directly supports indigenous people.

4

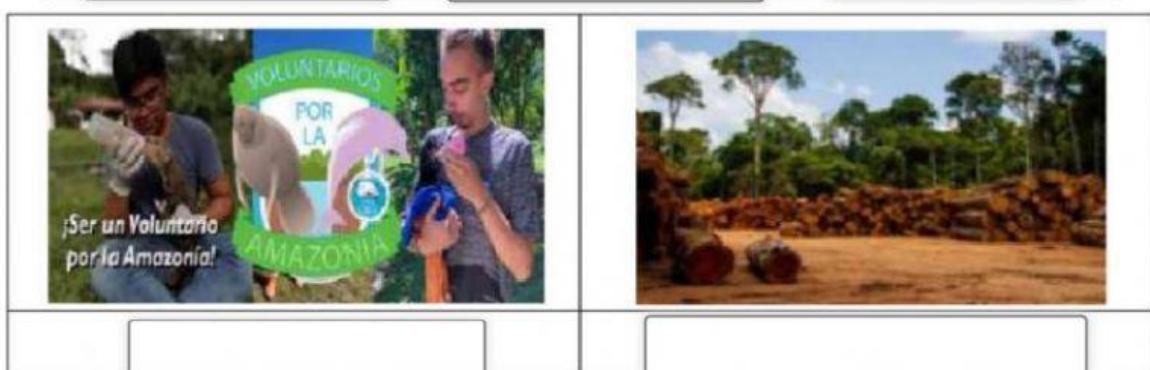
The more people know what is happening to rainforests and the indigenous communities who rely on them, the more likely they are to join and support the cause. Don't forget to like us on Facebook, follow us on Twitter, YouTube and Instagram. By sharing on social media, you add pressure to hold governments and corporations responsible for deforestation.

5

The contribution of your personal time and energy can make a big difference. Think you can spare 1-2 hours per week, or even 5-10? Rainforest Foundation US welcomes volunteers with a range of skills and talents to support our mission. From translations, to editing, to video production, your commitment and time can help us advance our vision of a world where the planet's majestic rainforests thrive in perpetuity. Find out more about our volunteer opportunities.



c. Read again and number the pictures according each paragraph



d. Match the suggestions to protect the amazon region. Read again if you need it.

Mining for precious metals	And buy your meat from local farms that use sustainable practices.
Ecotourism gives you an opportunity to learn	The more likely they are to join and support the cause.
Reduce your meat intake	Where the planet's majestic rainforests thrive in perpetuity.
By sharing on social media	And products forces companies to change their practices.
The contribution of your personal time	Is a leading cause of deforestation and river pollution in the Amazon.
Your commitment and time can help us advance our vision of a world	And energy can make a big difference.
The more people know,	You add pressure to hold governments and corporations responsible for deforestation.
Choosing sustainably produced foods.	About new cultures and directly supports indigenous people.

