

A Trillion Tropical Leaves



The Amazon river's a mighty beast
that meanders and powers and weaves;
its fingers and veins flowing into the heart
of a trillion tropical leaves.

■
It sits in the land of the samba and dance,
South American countries count nine:
There's Brazil and Peru, Colombia too,
then Bolivia waits next in line.

■
The rainforest's huge; the biggest on Earth
with millions of creatures and trees.
Great Britain could fit in there 26 times,
or 42 Englands with ease!

■
There're caimans and sloths, and ocelots too,
piranhas and things that can bite;
tarantulas, crocodiles, spiders and snakes,
and jaguars spotted and bright.

■ ■
And what do we do to this place on Earth?
This land of such beauty and awe?
We slash and we burn and we chop it all down,
then we slash and we burn it some more.

■ ■
The Amazon rainforest's crying for help,
ecosystems are naturally linked,
it's dying, it's hurt; shall we chop down some more
until all of Earth's life is extinct?

1. How many times can England fit inside the rainforest? Tick one.

- ☐ 42
- ☐ 24
- ☐ 26
- ☐ 64

2. What is the 'land of the samba and dance'? Tick one.

- ☐ the Amazon
- ☐ Great Britain
- ☐ South America
- ☐ Eden

3. Draw **three** lines and match each item with how it is described in the poem.

the Amazon river

the rainforest

jaguars

spotted and bright

a mighty beast

huge

4. Which word is **not** repeated in the poem? Tick one.

- ☐ slash
- ☐ crying
- ☐ burn
- ☐ chop

5. Give the names of **two** rainforest creatures that are mentioned in the poem.

- _____
- _____

6. Find and copy a word from the poem that means when something no longer exists.

7. Explain why the Amazon river is described as a 'mighty beast'.

8. Why is the Amazon rainforest 'crying for help'?
