

# Tropical Rainforests

## Deforestation of the Amazon Rainforest

### 1. What is the problem?

The Amazon rainforest is rapidly \_\_\_\_\_. In 2016, the rate of \_\_\_\_\_ was 29% \_\_\_\_\_ than in previous years. This problem is getting \_\_\_\_\_.

### 2. Causes of increasing deforestation:

There are many reasons why the deforestation of the Amazon is increasing so rapidly. These include:

- The rising demand for and value of \_\_\_\_\_. This encourages more farmers to clear areas of forest to plant soy for profit.
- \_\_\_\_\_ cut down the trees to create farmland. Brazilian beef prices were at a high in 2016.
- Many soy farmers are planting soybeans on savannas or old cattle ranches as these have easier \_\_\_\_\_, forcing cattle ranchers deeper in to the forest where they clear new land.
- \_\_\_\_\_ along the rivers in the Amazon require a lot of deforestation, both for the dam itself and the access routes and infrastructure.
- \_\_\_\_\_ is big business in the Amazon.
- \_\_\_\_\_ are expanding, requiring more quarries and deforestation.
- There continues to be a profitable illegal trade in \_\_\_\_\_ for the production of cocaine. Coca farms take up a lot of space.
- \_\_\_\_\_ was changed in 2016, making it easier to obtain a licence for deforestation. This has attracted a surge of investment in the area.
- An increase in \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ has required deforestation.

### 3. Why is the Amazon important?

The Amazon rainforest is an extremely important natural resource. We should protect it from destruction because:

- It is home to unequalled \_\_\_\_\_, supporting thousands of bird, animal, insect, plant and tree species.
- Many of these species are \_\_\_\_\_ and not found anywhere else on the planet.
- Trees produce \_\_\_\_\_. The Amazon rainforest is often referred to as 'the lungs of the Earth'.
- Many of our \_\_\_\_\_ use ingredients found in the Amazon rainforest.

- Worldwide, there are 3000 plants that have been found to be useful in \_\_\_\_\_.  
\_\_\_\_% of them only grow in the rainforest
- We have only explored and \_\_\_\_\_ of the Amazon rainforest. There are likely to be many more undiscovered species and potential cures yet to find.

4. What should be done about it?

The Brazilian government really \_\_\_\_\_ of the Amazon rainforest as a matter of urgency. This will \_\_\_\_\_ and unlimited development within the Rainforest.

However, deforestation and the various uses of the Amazon are \_\_\_\_\_.  
\_\_\_\_\_. Protected areas are also very difficult and \_\_\_\_\_

. Therefore, the government is actually \_\_\_\_\_. They are also actively encouraging deforestation and human activity in the area by \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ for farmers and builders who want to work in the rainforest. This is leaving the Amazon in a \_\_\_\_\_ position.