

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.