

BRAZIL



act:onaid

Brazil is the largest country in South America and borders ten different countries. Its landscape is incredibly varied and includes the world's longest river and largest tropical forest. The Amazon is the planet's largest remaining rainforest, teeming with more wildlife than anywhere else on earth and helping stabilise our climate. Over half the Amazon rainforest is in Brazil, although deforestation is threatening its survival. Brazil is one of the world's biggest economies but there is a wide gap between rich and poor with 16 million people living in poverty.

Capital
Brasília

Official language
Portuguese

Area size
8,514,877 sq km

Forests cover just over half of the land area

Climate
Mostly tropical, but mild in the South

Population
201,009,622 (July 2013 est.)

Population distribution
85% of Brazil's population live in urban areas

Money
1 real = 100 centavos

Life expectancy
71 years (men)
77 years (women)



THE BIG ISSUES



Women's Rights

Compared to men, women receive up to 30% less pay for doing the same job.



Young People

Around 14 million Brazilians aged 15-29 live in poverty.



Education

Only half of young people aged 15-17 years old attend secondary school.



Water & Health

50% of people living in rural areas do not receive adequate healthcare.



Land & Food

Since 2000, an area of Amazonia the size of 50 football pitches has been destroyed every minute.

ActionAid in Brazil

ActionAid works with around **1,300 communities** across the South East and North East regions of Brazil, helping more than **300,000 people**. For more information visit: <http://po.st/AABrazil>

Resource 2 - Amazon Rainforest pack

The Rainforest - how places change

A set of 10 stunning photographs of the Amazon rainforest with accompanying caption cards. These photos show the complex and changing world of the rainforest, the rainforest as an ecosystem, the dangers it faces, the people who live there and their approach to preserving this unique environment. For higher learners, the KS2 photopack explores deforestation in more detail.

Curriculum links:

Geography:

Identify key physical features of the rainforest

Use aerial photographs to recognise landmarks and basic human and physical features

Science:

Living things in the environment, care for the environment

PSHE:

Living in the wider world, learning about the importance of respecting and protecting the environment

This might help:

Rodrigo Beleia is a freelance photojournalist who has worked with Greenpeace to photograph the Amazon and the dangers it faces:

<http://rodrigobaleia.com.br/>



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This is an aerial view of the Amazon river surrounded by rainforest. The Amazon river is the widest and second longest river in the world. In places it is wider than six miles (that's over 15,000 buses!

The Amazon River is home to fish, dolphins, otters, turtles and snakes, as well as caimans which are like crocodiles.

Photo 2 - Trees in the rainforest

Trees grow upwards very quickly in the hot, wet climate to form a green canopy. There are few branches in the middle layers. On the ground are shrubs and thick undergrowth which are filled with creepers - tall thin plants that wind upwards around the trees to reach the sunlight.

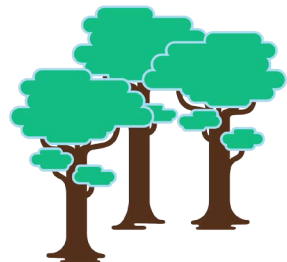




Photo 3 - Levels of the rainforest

In this photo you can see the different levels of the rainforest. At the bottom is the river and its banks and plants. In the middle you can see the bushes and shrubs of the shrub layer. There is then a gap where the leaves are thinner before the under-canopy and the canopy with the tallest trees.





Photo 4 - Fruits and nuts

This a mango tree growing in the rainforest. Trees in the rainforest produce many different types of fruits and nuts including mangoes, passion fruit, bananas, cashew and brazil nuts, sweet potatoes and very hot chillis!

The acai berry looks like a red grape and is very popular to eat with the people who live in the rainforest.





Photo 5 - Deforestation

In this picture you can see an area of the forest which has been cut down and cleared.

This is also known as ‘deforestation’. Deforestation means the clearing of large areas of forest lands which are never re-planted. Trees are cut down for many reasons including:

- To be sold as wood. This is called logging.
- To be used for farming
- To make room for houses or roads.





Photo 6 - Slash and burn

In this photo you can see a process known as 'slash and burn'. Trees are cut down and the land is burnt in order to clear it to grow crops such as soya.

However, the biggest cause of deforestation in the Amazon is cattle ranching. If you went to the Amazon today, you would find millions of cattle grazing on the land.

Brazil is now the world's largest exporter of beef. This is the meat which comes from cattle and is used to create foods such as steaks or burgers.





Photo 7 - Forest to desert

In both 2005 and 2010, the Amazon was struck by extreme drought.

A drought is a long period of time when no rain falls. In a drought plants do not grow properly, rivers dry up and trees and wildlife die. In areas where trees have been cut down, hot winds blow away the soil.





What can you see in this picture?

This picture is an aerial view of Jacara where a smaller river flows out of the Amazon River. This picture shows the river, the houses where people live, trees and grassland. It is hot and humid most of the year and rains almost every day.

People use boats to travel to different places. They also use walkways which you can see in the middle of the picture. They are made of wood and raised above the ground to keep people safe from snakes!

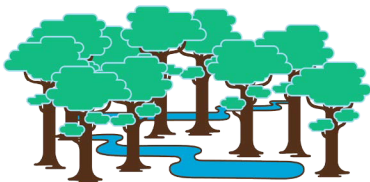




Photo 9 - Houses among the trees

The Gomez family live in the rainforest. Like most families in the area, they grow their own food or fish for it in the river. They have a small farm where they plant vegetables such as cassava, corn, beans and potatoes. Fruit like bananas, oranges and mangoes grows on the farm and around the house.





Photo 10 - Extractive reserve

The community the Gomez family live in is protected by the Brazilian government and is called 'Forever Green'. It is an extractive reserve which means local families can use the land as long as they look after the rainforest.

They earn a living by collecting products such as nuts, fruit and rubber, and making furniture from fallen trees. This way they can support themselves whilst looking after the environment. In this photo, community members are making a cabinet out of wood from a fallen tree.

Why do you think the community gave the land the name Forever Green?





THE AMAZON RAINFOREST



5% of the earth's surface is the Amazon rainforest basin.



The Amazon rainforest covers nine countries in South America. 60% is in Brazil.



The Amazon is home to around 25% of all land and freshwater species and 40,000 plant species.



