

# The Amazon Rainforest

## Pre-Reading

### A. Warm-Up Questions

1. What do you know about the Amazon rainforest?
2. Where is the Amazon rainforest located?
3. Is protecting the environment important to you?

### B. Vocabulary Preview

Match up as many words and meanings as you can.

Check this exercise again after seeing the words in context on page 2.

- |                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| ___ 1. biodiverse    | a) to remove impurities  |
| ___ 2. species       | b) not possible to live in   |
| ___ 3. perspective   | c) wood used for building  |
| ___ 4. uninhabitable | d) a group of animals or plants with common characteristics                    |
| ___ 5. filter        | e) not wanting to do something   |
| ___ 6. deforestation | f) the act of traveling to natural environments without causing damage to them |
| ___ 7. lumber        | g) profitable  |
| ___ 8. lucrative     | h) having a variety of plant and animal life                                   |
| ___ 9. reluctant     | i) the natural home of an animal or plant                                      |
| ___ 10. endangered   | j) at risk of extinction or disappearing                                       |
| ___ 11. habitat      | k) a particular way of looking at something                                    |
| ___ 12. ecotourism   | l) the act of cutting down trees in large numbers                              |



## Reading

1. The Amazon rainforest is an enormous tropical forest that covers more than 2.1 million square miles (5.4 million square kilometres) of South America. The largest portion of the rainforest is located in Brazil, but it also extends into Peru, Colombia, Venezuela, Ecuador, Bolivia, Guyana, Suriname, and French Guiana. This vast forest contains the Amazon River, which is the second-longest river in the world, after the Nile.
2. The Amazon rainforest makes up more than half of the remaining rainforest land on our planet. It is also the most **biodiverse** ecosystem in the world and contains 390 billion trees, which represent 16,000 **species**. More species of birds, plants, mammals, and fish live here than anywhere else on Earth.
3. This rainforest is particularly interesting from a climatic **perspective**. Without it, global temperatures would rise and rainfall patterns would dramatically change, perhaps making Earth **uninhabitable**. Furthermore, the trees of the Amazon are necessary for clean air because they **filter** out the carbon dioxide that humans produce and release oxygen for us to breathe. Unfortunately, due to **deforestation**, the Amazon rainforest has been disappearing over the years. Because the exportation of trees for **lumber** is so **lucrative**, big companies are **reluctant** to put a stop to the industry, even though it is harming the planet. Despite the fact that laws protect 44% of the rainforest, more than 310,000 square miles (800,000 square kilometres) have been lost since 1970.
4. Many **endangered** species live in the Amazon, including giant otters, the South American tapir (a rare, hoofed mammal), and various types of monkeys and birds. If the **habitat** of these species disappears, they will not be able to survive. The Amazon is also important to the field of medicine. While only 0.5% of Amazonian plant species have been studied by modern scientists for medicinal purposes, the indigenous people of the Amazon have been extracting chemicals from Amazonian plants for centuries. It is possible that the Amazonian plants could be used to cure some of the world's remaining diseases.
5. Finally, the Amazon rainforest is important because it brings **ecotourism** to South American countries, which boosts their economies. Visitors can boat down the Amazon River, accompanied by knowledgeable native guides, and explore the wonders of this beautiful region without negatively impacting it.

### Extra Information

Plants and animals are not the only living creatures that inhabit the Amazon rainforest. The Yanomami tribe, with more than 35,000 members, is the largest surviving group of indigenous people in the region. The Yanomami grow fruits and vegetables, wear clothing made out of natural materials, and live in communal homes made of bamboo and banana leaves. Some members of the tribe have never made contact with outsiders.

## Comprehension

### A. True or False?

Read the statements below.

If the statement is true, write T beside the sentence.

If it is false, write F and correct the information in your notebook.

The Amazon rainforest...

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. is located entirely in Brazil.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. contains the longest river in the world.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. contains 390 billion trees.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. is disappearing due to the lumber industry.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. provides a habitat for giant otters.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. is home to South American tapirs, which are a species of bird.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. contains plants that can be used for medicine.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. does not attract many tourists.

### B. Ask & Answer

Practise asking and answering the following questions with your partner.

Then write your answers in complete sentences in your notebook.

1. Why are Amazonian trees important for our planet?
2. Why do lumber companies continue to cut down trees in the Amazon?
3. What is the benefit of ecotourism?
4. Why might some Amazonian plants be important?
5. How much of the Amazon rainforest has been lost since 1970?
6. Who are the Yanomami people?

## Vocabulary Review

### A. Complete the Sentences

Complete the sentences using vocabulary from page 1.  
You may need to change the word forms.

1. There's so much pollution in that city that it is almost \_\_\_\_\_ .
2. My husband and I \_\_\_\_\_ our water to make it safe to drink.
3. The arctic regions have the least \_\_\_\_\_ on the planet because it is too cold for most species of plants and animals to live there.
4. The American pioneers cut down trees because they needed \_\_\_\_\_ to build their log cabins.
5. You shouldn't have a big fluffy dog if you live in a hot place. They aren't made for that kind of \_\_\_\_\_ .
6. Cheryl prefers \_\_\_\_\_ to big cruise ships because they can have a negative impact on the environment.

### B. Choose the Correct Word

Choose the word or phrase with the closest meaning to the underlined word or phrase in the following sentences.

- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <p>1. There are many <u>species</u> of monkeys, but my favorite is the dusky leaf monkey.</p> <p>a) sculptures<br/>b) categories<br/>c) animals</p>  | <p>3. Kelli decided it was time to close her flower shop because it wasn't <u>lucrative</u> anymore.</p> <p>a) making money<br/>b) popular<br/>c) losing money</p>   | <p>5. I hated that modern painting in my parents' room until I looked at it from a different <u>perspective</u>. Now I think it's beautiful.</p> <p>a) painter<br/>b) room<br/>c) angle</p> |
| <p>2. Humboldt County is home to the tallest trees in the world, and the people there have been protesting against <u>deforestation</u> for decades.</p> <p>a) planting trees<br/>b) cutting down trees<br/>c) measuring trees</p> | <p>4. I was <u>reluctant</u> to go to Suprita's wedding because I knew my ex-boyfriend would be there. However, he didn't show up and I had a great time.</p> <p>a) excited<br/>b) determined<br/>c) unwilling</p> | <p>6. It breaks my heart that giant pandas are <u>endangered</u>. They are such adorable animals!</p> <p>a) dangerous<br/>b) at risk of disappearing<br/>c) scared of humans</p>            |

# Grammar Review

## COMPARATIVE AND SUPERLATIVE ADJECTIVES

### A. Function

		Examples
<b>Comparative</b>	A comparative adjective allows you to compare two nouns or pronouns.	Dobby is <b>cuter</b> than Snowball.
<b>Superlative</b>	A superlative adjective is used to compare at least three nouns or pronouns.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Out of all five puppies in the pet store, Dobby is <b>the cutest</b>.</li> <li>Dobby is <b>the cutest</b> puppy in the pet store.</li> </ul>

### B. Comparative Adjectives

Adjectives with...	Form	Examples
one syllable	Adj + <i>-er</i>	My brother is <b>taller</b> than my father.
two syllables ending in -y	Adj (-y changes to -i) + <i>-er</i>	Claudia is <b>happier</b> than her sister.
two syllables (not ending in -y)	<i>more</i> + Adj	Brad Pitt is <b>more famous</b> than Matt Damon.
three (or more) syllables	<i>more</i> + Adj	Paris is <b>more beautiful</b> than my hometown.



## Grammar Review cont.

### C. Superlative Adjectives

Adjectives with...	Form	Examples
one syllable	<i>the + Adj + -est</i>	Tom is <b>the oldest</b> person in the room.
two syllables ending in <i>-i</i>	<i>the + Adj (-y changes to -i) + -est</i>	New York is <b>the muggiest</b> city I've ever visited.
two syllables (not ending in <i>-y</i> )	<i>the + most + Adj</i>	August is <b>the most humid</b> month of the year.
three (or more) syllables	<i>the + most + Adj</i>	Jack is <b>the most interesting</b> person I know.

### D. Practice

Write sentences using the words provided and the comparative or superlative form of the adjective.

Ex. Brian / kind / Sofia

*Brian is kinder than Sofia.*

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1. The Amazon River / short / the Nile River

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2. Working in the lumber industry / lucrative / waiting tables at a restaurant

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3. The Amazon rainforest / biodiverse / region / the world

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4. Cruise ships / damaging to the planet / ecotourism

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5. Brazil / big / country / South America

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## Discussion

1. Would you like to visit the Amazon rainforest? Why or why not?
2. Do you think humans will find a way to save this rainforest?  
Why or why not?
3. What can we do to make sure different species of animals don't become endangered?

## Wrap-Up

1. What vocabulary did you learn in this lesson that you want to try to use more often?  
Name two words or expressions.

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2. What do you find the most interesting about this famous place?

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3. Did this lesson make you want to visit the Amazon rainforest? Why or why not?

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4. How well do you understand comparative and superlative adjectives after completing this lesson?  
Put a check mark (✓) above your choice.

<b>Extremely Well</b>	<b>Pretty Well</b>	<b>Well</b>	<b>Not Well</b>	<b>Not at All</b>
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