

Amazon Rainforest



Surrounding the Amazon River, the Amazon Rainforest is perhaps one of the most important biomes on Earth. It is the world's largest tropical rainforest, covering over 5.5 million square kilometres. You could fit 17 copies of the UK and Ireland into the Amazon Rainforest. Like the river, it spans across several countries, including Brazil.

The Amazon Rainforest has been home to humans for around 13,000 years. There are between 400 and 500 different tribes who still live relatively isolated lives under the canopy. Scientists think that around 50 of these tribes have never had contact with the outside world.

Together with the Amazon River, the rainforest is home to around 40,000 species of plant, over 400 mammals, 3,000 fish and around 1,300 types of bird. These numbers are insignificant compared to the 2.5 million species of insects!

Like all forests, the Amazon Rainforest is a key part of our defence against climate change. The sheer density of trees is able to absorb a lot of carbon dioxide and release oxygen into the atmosphere.

Vocabulary

If somebody or a group of people is "isolated", what does it mean?

Find a word that could mean "doesn't matter" or "very small".

Explain

Why has this text been included in a topic about Brazil?

Retrieve

How many species of plants live in the Amazon Rainforest?

Summarise

Which type of animal is most numerous in the Amazon Rainforest?