



### What's going on this week?

Fires have been burning the world's largest tropical forest, the Amazon Rainforest, for around 4-weeks. The French President, Emmanuel Macron, has called the fires an "international crisis" and along with 6 other countries, offered money to help put the fires out. The Brazilian President, Bolsonaro, refused this money. It has been reported that there have been 74,000 fires in the Amazon this year so far, a lot more than last year. It's a worrying increase because the Amazon very rarely burns on its own as it is usually too wet to ignite, so most of the fires are caused by people. The Amazon Rainforest is important to the air we breathe and for turning the gas carbon dioxide into oxygen. The jungle is home to many different species of wildlife and plants, many of which are rare or endangered.

#### Main question:

**Is it wrong to refuse help?**

**Listen, think, share**

- Look at this week's poster and ask the children if anyone knows where the picture was taken? Explain that this was taken in Brazil. For the past month there have been many fires in the Amazon Rainforest. This has been quite worrying as rainforests are very important to our environment, and they are also the home to lots of wildlife. It is thought that many of the fires have been caused by people, either trying to expand their farms or by being careless. There have been a lot more fires this year than there were last year.
- The government in Brazil have been questioned by many over their lack of action to try to stop the fires sooner. Brazil have also rejected help from other countries and said that they should use the money for their own countries. Do you think they should have accepted help?
- Read through some of the details about the Amazon Rainforest fires. Do you think enough is being done to help tackle the problem?

#### Reflection

The Amazon Rainforest is sometimes called the lungs of the Earth for its role in producing oxygen, which we all depend on to survive. Rainforests are also the home of many plants and wildlife and produce important rainfall all around the world. For these reasons, it's vital that we respect and support our biggest rainforests.



### KS1 Focus

**Question:**

**What is the Amazon Rainforest?**

**Listen, think, share**

- Ask the children to think about and discuss the following questions: what do you think a rainforest is? Have you ever heard of the Amazon Rainforest?
- Explain that the Amazon Rainforest is the largest tropical rainforest in the world.
- Show the children a map of the world and point to South America. Explain that this is where the Amazon rainforest is.
- Look at the KS1 assembly resource. Share the information about the Amazon Rainforest. Does anything surprise you? Is there anything you would like to find out more about?
- Some people live in the Amazon Rainforest. Some indigenous (meaning native/original to that place) tribes have never had contact with the outside world. What do you think life might be like for them?
- Look at the section sharing how many different species live in the Amazon Rainforest. What affect might the fires be having on these species?

#### Reflection

The Amazon Rainforest is a fascinating place! There are so many different plants and animals that we can learn about. We can also learn about people who choose to live life in a different way to us. Being different is good!



### KS2 Focus

**Question:**

**Who lives in the Amazon Rainforest?**

**Listen, think, share**

- Write the word 'indigenous' on the board. What does this mean? Explain that it means something originated or occurred naturally in a particular place.
- Around 400-500 indigenous tribes live in the Amazon Rainforest. It is believed that 50 of these tribes have never had contact with the outside world. What do you think life might be like for them?
- Share the KS2 assembly resource. How do you think the people living in the rainforest feel knowing fires are currently raging, uncontrollably in some areas?
- Mathias describes the land his people live on as their mother. What do you think he means? Explain that the rainforest is not just home to millions of species of plants and animals but also people who rely on the forest for their food, medicines and clothing. They see the land as forming part of their identity. The land being under threat means their traditions, livelihoods and children's futures are also under threat.
- What do you think you would like and/or dislike about living in the rainforest?

#### Reflection

Different people choose to live life in different ways. Whoever we are and wherever we live, we should be able to feel safe in the place we call home.



## KS2 Follow-up Ideas

**Option 1:** Ask the children to discuss their views on the Brazilian President, Bolsonaro, refusing money to help fight the fires. Record the statement 'President Bolsonaro should accept help from other countries.' Ask the children to list points for and against this statement. Share points in a small group then ask the children to decide if they are for or against the statement. You can then use the discussions to complete one of the following:

- A whole class debate
- A discussion text
- An argument text
- A persuasive letter or poster in support or against Bolsonaro's decision

Think about: Has there ever been a time you have refused help? Was it the right thing to do?

**Option 2:** Rainforest maths! Ask the children to complete the following challenges in pairs, discussing and recording their strategies.

- There are 2.5 million different insects found in the rainforest. Record this number in words and using digits.
- It has been reported that the fires in the Amazon this year so far have increased by 84% compared to the same time last year. Record this as a fraction and a decimal fraction.
- The canopy of the rainforest is so thick it can take rain about 10 minutes to reach the ground. How many seconds is this?
- 1 in 10 of the world's species live in the Amazon Rainforest. Record this as a percentage. Can you explain how to find this percentage of any number?
- Can you create your own rainforest maths question?



## KS1 Follow-up Ideas

**Option 1:** Watch the video found in the 'Useful Videos' section again. Ask the children to jot down vocabulary on post-it notes to describe the fire and smoke they can see. Think about:

- What does it look like?
- How does it move?
- What might it sound like?
- What might you be able to smell?

Share responses by either sticking post-it notes on a working wall or board or by making a record yourself. Model how to use the children's vocabulary to create a sentence. Ask the children to write a description of the fire using pictures, words and sentences.

**Option 2:** Ask the children to create a list of some of the animals found in the Amazon Rainforest. Use the KS1 assembly resource to help. Explain that they are going to choose one animal to create their very own animal mask! Before creating their mask ask the children to discuss the following:

- What animal will you create?
- What will it look like?
- What colours will you need?
- What will you use? Crayons, pens, paint, materials?

Use a paper plate to create your design or another template of your choice. Once they are complete, you could display them in the classroom, use them for role-play, storytelling or drama or wear them whilst you visit another class and get some feedback!



## This Week's Useful Website

[This week's news story](#)

[www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/49520864](http://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/49520864)



## This Week's Useful Videos

[The Amazon Rainforest Fires](#)

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=wnUWCEhw7\\_k  
&feature=youtu.be](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wnUWCEhw7_k&feature=youtu.be)



## This Week's Useful Vocabulary

**Canopy** – The branches and leaves that spread out at the top of trees in a forest.

**Crisis** – A situation where someone or something is affected by one or more serious problems.

**Endangered** – In danger of extinction.

**Ignite** – When something starts burning or explodes.

**Indigenous** – Something originated or occurred naturally in a particular place. Native.

**Species** – A class of plants or animals who all have the same main characteristics and are able to breed with each other.