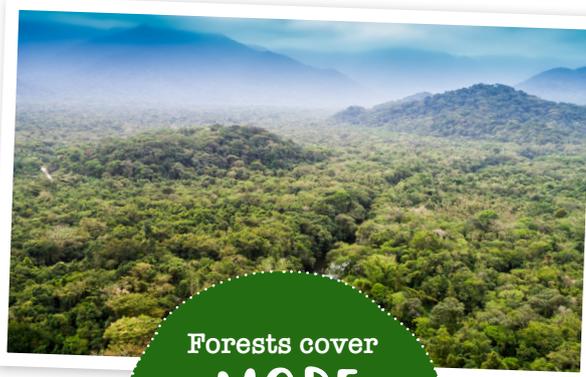




A day to discover...

# THE AMAZON RAINFOREST!

The Amazon rainforest is one of our world's most important and special forests. It has more plants and animals than anywhere else on Earth. Most of it is in a country called Brazil – the largest country in South America. Let's take a look and discover more!



Forests cover  
**MORE  
THAN HALF**  
of Brazil!

The Amazon  
river is the  
**SECOND  
LONGEST**  
river in the  
world.



The trees  
help keep the  
**CLIMATE**  
stable around  
the world.



Many of our  
favourite foods  
come from rainforests  
– like bananas, nuts  
and chocolate!  
**YUM!**

**212  
MILLION**  
people live  
in Brazil.

# Olá! (that means hello)

The Amazon rainforest isn't just home to lots of plants and animals. It's home to people too.

As many as one million people depend on the natural resources of the Amazon rainforest to survive, as their families have done for thousands of years. Families who live in the rainforest grow their own food or fish for it in the rivers. Life here is very different from the towns and cities of Brazil.

Families that live in rural areas often have small farms. Ruany (pictured below) and her brother help their parents on the family farm, planting crops and collecting food during the harvest. Her favourite food is potatoes!



Photo: Wanessa Assunção/ActionAid



Photo: Felipe Rangel/ActionAid

## Meet Joana!

**Most people in Brazil live in towns or cities, like Joana does.**

"My name is Joana. I am nine years old and live with my mother and two aunts in Alto das Estrelas.

I help take care of the environment by using water carefully in my house. I think it's cool to have friends from other places because it's good to know that I don't just have friends in my city."

## CAN YOU SAY...?

Olá means hello – but can you discover how to say more words in Portuguese, the main language spoken in Brazil?

**HINT**  
Use the code to work it out!

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z

How are you?

3	15	13	15	22	15	3	5	5	19	20	1

Family

6	1	13	9	12	9	1	5	21

Me

Please

16	15	18	6	1	22	15	18

Thank you

15	2	18	9	7	1	4	15

Bye

20	3	8	1	21

## DID YOU KNOW?

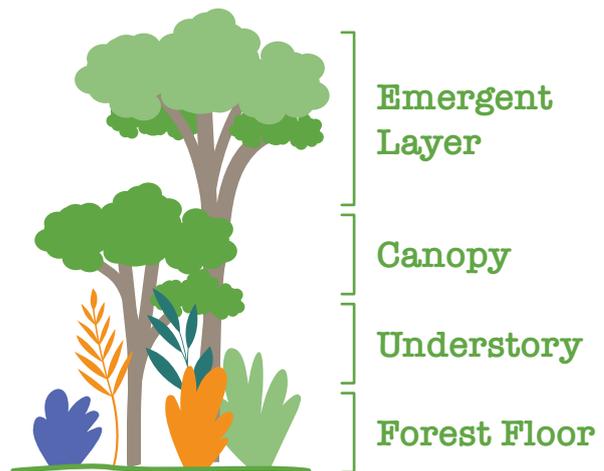
As well as Portuguese, over 200 other languages are spoken in Brazil today.

# Trees everywhere...

The Amazon rainforest has been called ‘the lungs of the Earth’ because the trees give off lots of oxygen, which we all need to breathe. Trees grow very quickly in the hot, wet climate to form a green canopy, full of life.

Standing on the dark and damp forest floor, you can see there are other layers of the forest besides the canopy.

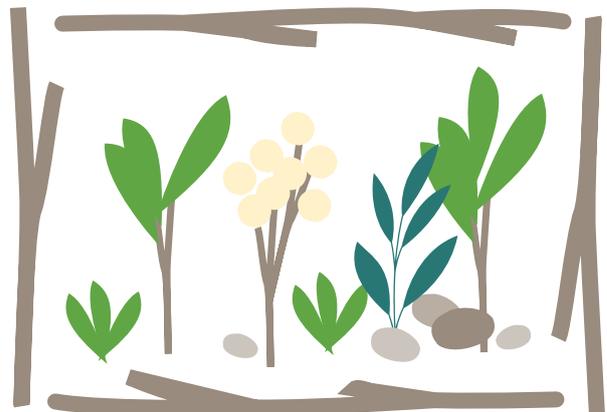
In the understory, there are shrubs and thick undergrowth, filled with creepers – tall, thin plants that wind upwards around the trees to reach the sunlight. Then comes the canopy, full of the branches and leaves of most of the rainforest’s trees. More plants and animals live here than anywhere else in the forest. And right at the top are the very tallest trees, poking above the canopy.



## FIND A FOREST!

There are sure to be things in your home that remind you of things you’d find in the layers of the rainforest.

See what you can discover – could those forks in your cutlery drawer be tree trunks, or some crunched-up paper look like treetops? Lay out your collection to make a picture on a table, the floor, or in your garden if you have one. You might want to get some items like bricks or twigs to create a frame round your picture too.



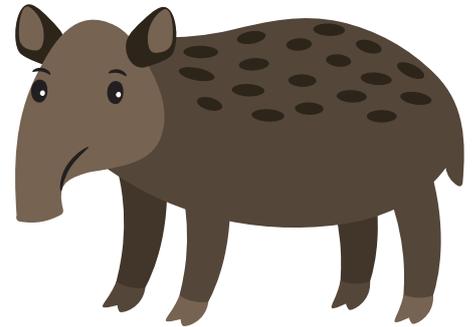
When you’re all done, take a photo to keep, before tidying up and putting everything away!

## DID YOU KNOW?

The Brazilwood tree gave Brazil its name. Its wood is often used in violin bows.

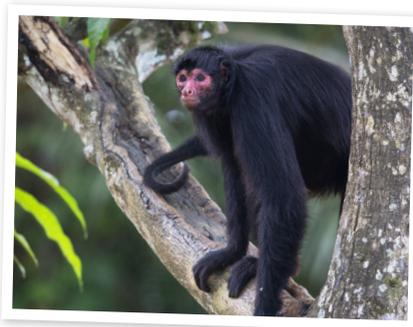
# Amazing animals

Olá! My name is Tapirus Kabomani but you can call me Tapir. It's time to discover some of the animals that live in the Amazon rainforest, starting with myself. Not many people know I'm here, but I'm easy to spot. I look like a pig with a long, funny snout!



## Macaw

Macaws are the world's largest parrots – from beak to tail, the scarlet macaw can be as long as 33 inches. Its strong beak is perfect for cracking open nuts and seeds to eat. It likes to spend its time in tall rainforest trees, usually in a large, noisy group with other macaws!



## Spider monkey

This monkey gets its name from its very long arms, legs and tail. Like all Amazon rainforest monkeys, it can use its tail like a fifth arm or leg to hold onto tree branches! It lives in a big group which splits up during the day to look for food, like fruit, nuts and insects.



## River dolphin

Amazon river dolphins are called 'botos' and are pink! They have very flexible bodies and can swim backwards, upside down and turn around quickly to grab a fish to eat. They also like to play with other river animals like turtles and snakes.

## WHICH ANIMAL ARE YOU?

Can you imagine being a rainforest animal, like me or one of my friends on this page? Which one of us would you like to be? Why?

Once you've decided, write a story in which you are that animal. What would your day be like today? Where would you go, what would you do, what would you eat, where would you play? Maybe you could draw a picture of the animal too!



This is me, Tapir. My snout is great for grabbing tasty plants and twigs – yum!

## DID YOU KNOW?

Most rainforest animals don't live on the ground – they live up in the trees!

# Protecting the rainforest

The Amazon rainforest might be far away from us, but it's part of all our lives. It helps provide things we eat and the rain and fresh water we need, and helps keep our whole world's climate steady. So we need to keep this rainforest safe – let's discover how we can do that!

## What's harmful?

Clearing and burning large areas of rainforest destroys local people's way of life, trees, plants and animals. And it releases more climate-changing carbon dioxide into the air.



**EVERY  
MINUTE**

humans destroy an area of the Amazon rainforest the size of a football pitch



## What's helpful?

Only cutting down certain trees, growing crops among the trees, and creating wildlife reserves are some of the ways to protect rainforests, and our climate, now and for the future.

## PLANET PROTECTOR!

Now that you know about the Amazon rainforest and why it's important to protect it, make a bright and colourful poster to put up and show others!

Use what you've discovered today about people, animals and trees to explain why the rainforest is one of the most special places on Earth.



Hope you've discovered lots of new things today. Your next Discovery Day will take you to India – see you there!