

Geography Knowledge Organiser Term 1

What is life like in the Amazon?

Key Objectives

- To understand what the Amazon is, and where it is located.
- To understand the Amazon's climate, and how the native animals are adapted to it.
- To research the Amazonian city of Manaus.
- To understand what life is like in the Amazon, and how it is changing.
- To understand how the Amazon is being damaged and how it can be protected.
- To understand the value of the Amazon and how it can be protected.

Key Vocabulary

River Basin	An area of land where all flowing surface water converges to a single point, such as a river mouth, or flows into another body of water, such as a lake or ocean.
Continent	A large geographical region.
Deforestation	The action of clearing a wide area of trees.
Tropical	A climate where temperatures are warm or hot throughout the year and where a great deal of rain falls year-round.
Biome	An area classified according to the species that live in that location.
Climate	The long-term weather pattern in a region,
Indigenous	Any group of people native to a specific region.
Shifting Cultivation	An agricultural system where plots of land are used temporarily
Agriculture	The art and science of cultivating the soil, growing crops, and raising livestock.
Nomad/nomadic	a person without fixed habitation who regularly moves to and from areas.
Tribe	A social group made up of many families, clans, or generations that share the same language, customs, and beliefs.

Sticky Knowledge

- The Amazon has a tropical climate, typical in areas close to the Equator (12 degrees north or south of the Equator). There are only two seasons: wet and dry.
- 5,500,000 square kilometres of the basin are covered by the rainforest, 60% of which is in Brazil. The Amazon represents over half of the planet's remaining rainforests and has an estimated 390 billion individual trees divided into 16,000 species.
- The Amazon is also home to more than 30 million people and about 9% is still made up of indigenous people - 350 different ethnic groups, more than 60 of which still remain largely isolated.
- Shifting cultivation consists of clearing a plot of land of the trees/plants, then burning (slash and burn). The ash is used to fertilise the land. After a few years, the land is abandoned, so its fertility can be naturally restored. The farmers move on to cultivate another plot of land.

