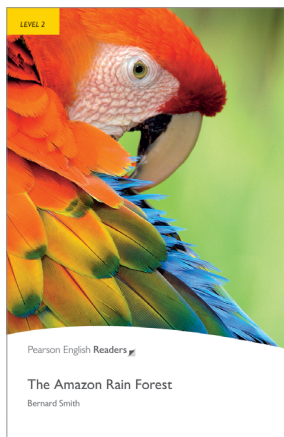


The Amazon Rain Forest

Bernard Smith



Summary

This book offers a lively introduction to the ecology, history and economy of the Amazon rain forest. It explains why the rain forest is important for the future of mankind, and it also highlights the pressures and problems that rainforests around the world face in today's global economy.

Students will all possess some general knowledge about the Amazon rain forest before they read the book. The book begins with a multiple-choice quiz to test the readers' knowledge and to arouse their curiosity about the questions they do not know the answers to. All the answers can be found later in the book.

The Amazon: This first section describes the course of the great Amazon River from its source, high in the Andes, to its exit into the Atlantic Ocean 6,400 kilometers downstream. Each part of the river is quite distinct – and the text describes the differences in landscape, vegetation and weather as well as some of the people that live along the river at different points.

What is a Rain Forest: This section describes some of the plants and animals of the forest and also explains how the warm, wet weather of the Amazon helps to maintain such an abundance of life. The world's rain forests are a rich resource of food and medicine that is currently not used or understood to its full potential. The text suggests that we could lose thousands of life-saving medicines and foods if the destruction of rain forests continues at its present rate.

Why are Rain Forests Disappearing: This section talks about the destruction of the world's rain forests over the last 100 years. It also explores why this has happened and why it may continue to happen unless the world's

consumers, companies and governments change their current habits.

The People of the Rain Forest: This section explores the lives of different people in the rain forest and presents their experiences through a series of first-person narratives. Here, readers learn about the relation between the people of the Xingu River and the white men through a story of an old man. They also find out about the Kayapo Indians by means of an old man's story and a short panel story which help to build a fuller picture of the Kayapo's lives and concerns. Next, readers hear about how the Amazonian forests were cleared for farming, and how farms eventually failed, leaving people without money, through the story of a Brazilian taxi driver. Readers are then informed about the economic rise and fall of Manaus—the most important city in the Amazon rainforest. Manaus became rich due to the rubber industry but it eventually suffered a severe economic decline in the 1920s when other countries started producing rubber more cheaply. Finally, readers hear the views of a Brazilian cattle farmer who argues that Brazil, as a whole, will face a poor future if it does not use even more of the rain forest land for farming.

Plans for the Rain Forests: This final section ends by looking to the future and asking what can be done to save the rain forest whilst still safeguarding the livelihoods of the people who live in and around it.

Background and themes

Environmental issues: These issues are the main theme of the book. With the destruction of the rain forests, thousands of the world's animals and plants are becoming extinct even before we have the chance to discover and study them. Also, the rapid disappearance of much of the world's forests is contributing towards global warming. The world's weather systems are changing and the results could be catastrophic.

The effect of colonization: The book also explores the role that history has had in the destruction of the Amazon rain forest. When the Europeans arrived in South America in the sixteenth century, they changed the continent for ever. Many indigenous people were killed in wars and by imported diseases. By 1700 the colonists were plundering the rain forest's resources to meet the demands of Europeans and North Americans for hardwood. And with the growth of the global economy through the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, Brazil

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became more and more reliant on its exports—rubber, wood and agricultural produce. All of these industries put more pressure on the forest's resources.

The future of the Amazon: By presenting a number of different points of view, the book highlights the difficult job that Brazil's government faces. The forest's resources are wanted by a number of different groups of people, each with their own strong arguments. In addition to needing to take responsibility for the welfare of its own people, the Brazilian government is also under a lot of external pressure from environmental groups and other governments around the world. The future of the Amazon is an international affair and relies upon cooperation and understanding among nations.

Discussion activities

Before reading

- 1 **Pair work and predict:** Ask students to look at the cover of the book but not to open it. Based on their own general knowledge, each pair should write an outline for a short book about rain forests. Guide them with these instructions: *Look at the book cover in pairs and imagine the main sections of your book. Include also a short description of the content (including any pictures) of each section.*
- 2 **Compare:** When the pairs have finished their outlines, ask them to look at the book's Contents page and to flick through its pages to compare it with their own books: *Now open The Amazon Rain Forest and compare its contents to your own book. How close were you?*
- 3 **Read carefully and pair work:** Ask students to read the Introduction in pairs. Guide them with these questions: *Read the Introduction in pairs and (a) discuss with another student how it makes you feel. Then (b) try to answer the question at the bottom of the Introduction together.*
- 4 **Group work and write:** Ask students to work in groups. They should write a short paragraph about the rain forests using at least ten of the words below: air cattle disappear disease frog grow leaf piranha plant poison root rubber seed soil water
Ask students to look up the words they do not know in the Word List in back of the book.

Pages 1–9

While reading

- 5 **Pair work: The Amazon**
Tell students to work in pairs and to take down notes of the most important information they read on pages 2–4: *As you read about the Amazon on pages 2–4, decide with another student which are the five most important things about it. Write them down.*

6 Read and check: Piranhas

Ask students to copy and complete the following chart about piranhas while they read page 4.

What they usually eat	What they eat when they are hungry	Their size	Their teeth

7 Research: South America

Ask students to work in groups and look at the map on page 5. They discuss what they know about Latin American countries and choose one to do research on: *Work in groups. Look at the map on page 5 and (a) compare these countries—their size, their rain forests, their mountains, etc; (b) say what else you know about these countries; (c) choose one country and find out more about it. Then tell the rest of the class.*

- 8 **Write:** Ask students to look at the section of text on page 8 called 'Food from the Forest' and ask them to do the following activity as you write the everyday foods listed (fruits, vegetables, coffee, tea, chocolate and sugar) on the board: *Write three sentences about each of these foods. For example: 'I eat fruit every day. I had a banana for my breakfast this morning. My favorite fruits are strawberries and grapes.'*
- 9 **Pair work:** Tell students to work in pairs and to do the following activity as they read page 9: *Work with another student. Read 'Medicines for all' on page 9. Each student writes down five questions and then they take turns to ask and answer questions.*

After reading

- 10 **Group work and guess:** Students work in groups. Each student chooses to be one of the animals, rivers or trees in this section (the Amazon, the piranhas, the rain forest, etc). They take it in turns to describe themselves and the others guess who they are.
- 11 **Role play:** Tell students to do the following activity after reading page 8: *Imagine you are two people living in different parts of the rain forest. Tell each other where and how you live, what you do every day, etc.*
- 12 **Write:** Discuss with students what newspaper articles are like. Tell them what a headline is. Ask students to work in pairs on the following activity after reading the section: *Imagine that you are writers for your school newspaper and you choose to write about one of the animals, rivers or trees in this section. Decide what to write about, and what headline and pictures to use. Then write down your article.*
Choose five students to read their work out loud and have the rest vote for the best one.
- 13 **Group work and compare:** Ask students to work in groups and to compare each text of this section to their own country: *In groups, re-read pages 1–9 quickly and compare each river, animal, fish, tree, rain forest, etc., you read about with one from your country. Take some time to talk about them.*

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- 14 Research:** Review with your students what they have learnt about the rain forests. Then ask them to work on the following: *In groups, find out more about the rain forests. Write ten sentences about them and read them to the class.*

Pages 10–15

While reading

- 15 Pair work and discuss: Why are rain forests disappearing?**

Students work in pairs after reading Chapter 10: *Discuss with another student why rain forests are disappearing. Write down the five most important problems.*

- 16 Read and check:** Ask students to copy and complete the following chart about wood after they read pages 11–12:

What wood was used for in the past	What wood is used for now

- 17 Role play: People from the rain forest**

Tell your students to do the following in small groups after reading page 13: *In groups, read page 13 and choose to be one of the different people who live in the rain forest, for example, the Pizabo, the Sinabo, Kayapo, etc. Imagine you all meet in the forest and you tell each other how you live.*

- 18 Discuss: Indians**

Ask students to work in pairs and to discuss the following after they read pages 14–15: *Work with another student and discuss what happened to Indians in the past and what is happening to them now.*

After reading

- 19 Write and group work:** Tell students to work in groups and to do the following activity after they read the section: *In groups, write down sentences about how we are losing rain forests.*

Choose five students to read their writings out loud and discuss the topic with all the class.

- 20 Discuss:** After doing activity 19, discuss what we can do to save the rain forests. Write students' suggestions on the board: *We talked about how and why rain forests are disappearing. What can we do to save them?*

- 21 Group work and artwork:** Explain what leaflets and brochures are and what they are used for. Students design a poster, leaflet or brochure informing people about what is happening to rain forests and how we can save them.

Pages 15–25

While reading

- 22 Write:** Ask students to re-read pages 15–16 and work on the following activity: *Imagine you are Maria. What do you write down in your diary after visiting the Kayapo people and listening to the old man's story? What are they like? What do they make you feel?*

- 23 Role play: The Kayapo people**

Tell students to work on the following activity as they read pages 16–17: *Imagine you are Jose. You call your parents in Sao Paulo and you tell them what you learned about the Kayapo people. Your parents ask you lots of questions. Answer them.*

- 24 Pair work: A very special day**

Ask students to work in pairs and to imagine they are Jose and Maria on pages 18–19: *Work with another student and discuss all that Jose and Maria did when they went fishing. Now decide what to write in your journals.*

- 25 Discuss: The taxi driver's story**

Tell students to work in groups and to do the following activity as they read pages 20–21: *In groups, read pages 20–21 and write down all the problems that the taxi driver talks about.*

- 26 Read and check: What is wood for?**

Ask students to copy and complete the following chart about Manaus after they read page 22:

Manaus in the past	Manaus today

After reading

- 27 Write:** Ask students to work in groups and do the following activity when they finish the section: *Imagine you are Jose and Maria back in Sao Paulo. Discuss and plan what you will write in your article about the people in the rain forest. Write the article.*

Extra activities

- 28 Group work:** Students work in groups. They should write their own rain forest quiz like the one on page 1 of the book. Then, someone from each group should read their questions to the rest of the class and the first group to put up their hands and answer a question correctly gets one point. Alternatively, collect the quizzes from the groups and act as quiz master yourself, keeping a record of each group's score on the board.

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While reading

Pages 1–9

1 Answer these questions (pp. 1–4).

- What are the longest rivers in the world?
.....
- What have snow on their tops?
.....
- Who are half Indian and half Portuguese?
.....
- What meets the Amazon River in the middle of Brazil?
.....
- What bring things to Manaus from other countries?
.....
- What is 240 kilometers wide?
.....
- What can eat a man in minutes?
.....

2 The Indians of the forest use the trees for many things. How many uses can you think of? Write a list.

.....
.....
.....

3 Are these sentences right (✓) or wrong (X) about 'What is a Rain Forest' (p. 6)?

- Most rain forests grow in countries with very cold weather. ☐
- Rain forests are only trees. ☐
- A small number of animals and plants live in the rain forest. ☐
- There are a lot of different kinds of trees in the rain forests. ☐
- Many animals and birds live in trees. ☐

4 Finish these sentences about 'Life in Trees' and 'The Weather' (p. 6).

- Different plants and animals have their homes on different
- Every tree in the forest wants to
- Fruits and seeds fall from treetops and
- The tallest trees often have
- The weather in the Amazon
- A rain forest has more than
- The air is
1) grow up to the sunlight.
2) grow in the soil.

- does not change much.
- two meters of rain every year.
- hot and wet all the time.
- thick wide roots.
- floors of the rainforest.

Pages 10–15

5 Put these sentences in the right order, from 1–6.

- ☐ The big companies built big new roads into the forest.
- ☐ Chippendale's furniture became popular around the world.
- ☐ Big companies cut down hardwood trees in large numbers and sold the wood to other countries.
- ☐ Europeans came to South America for the first time.
- ☐ European and North American furniture-makers used rain forest hardwood for the first time.
- ☐ After two hundred years, the best trees were a long way from roads and ships.

6 Match the name and the description.

- Peru Recife Amazon Jamaica
Thomas Chippendale North American Brazil
- made a book with ideas for furniture.
 - people loved exciting ideas from Europeans.
 - In people cut hardwood trees year after year.
 - Some companies around the rain forest sent workers into the forest.
 - built a lot of new roads into and around the rain forest.
 - The rain forest roads go from, next to the Atlantic Ocean, to the Andes in

7 Underline the wrong words and put the right ones.

- The first people in the rain forests were the Europeans.
- All the people in the rain forests speak the same language.
- No Indians in the rain forest speak Portuguese now.

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- d The people in the rain forest use plants for food and homes.
- e All the people of the rain forest catch fish in the sea.
- f The people of the rain forest make poison from plants and piranhas.

8 Finish these sentences.

- a A lot of the Indians of the rain forest died because the Europeans
- b In the 1960s, the countries of South America started to
- c The people and the visitors on vacation in the rain forest can see
- d With the money from the coffee and the rubber, the Europeans built
- e Almost all the people in Brazil today

Pages 15–25

9 Are these sentences right (✓) or wrong (X)?

- a Jose and Maria live in the rain forest. ☐
- b The Kayapo Indians live in their boats. ☐
- c The Kayapo Indians take Jose and Maria to a different part of the river. ☐
- d The fish are swimming very fast in the pool. ☐
- e The Kayapo Indians use wood from the forest to catch the fish. ☐
- f There is a strong poison in the wood. ☐
- g Jose and Maria help the Kayapo Indians to catch fish. ☐
- h Jose and Maria eat some of the Kayapo Indians' fish. ☐

10 Answer these questions.

- a Where did the taxi driver live when he was a small child?
.....
- b Why did the taxi driver's family move to the forest?
.....
- c What did the taxi driver's family plant on their farm?
.....
- d How long did the taxi driver's family live on their first farm?
.....

- e Where did the taxi driver's family go to get work?
.....
- f What kind of trees made Manaus a rich city?
.....
- g Why did the good times end in the 1920s for Manaus?
.....
- h How much of Brazil is cattle farms?
.....
- i Does the cattle farmer want to cut down all of the Amazon rain forest for cattle?
.....

11 Circle the right answer.

- a In 1992, people from 150 countries met to talk about
1) the Amazon.
2) all rain forests.
3) Rio de Janeiro.
- b We are losing animals and plants from the rain forest
1) every day.
2) only in Brazil.
3) in the future.
- c A new forest is better than
1) an old forest.
2) any forest.
3) no forest.
- d Indians can live in the rain forests and look
1) after them.
2) for them.
3) around them.
- e Rain forest vacation centers will bring more
1) jobs.
2) farms.
3) big companies.
- f Today, the Amazon rain forest is getting
1) bigger.
2) smaller.
3) better.

12 How can you help the Amazon rain forest? Write five ideas.

.....
.....
.....

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Pages 1–9

1 Underline the wrong word and put the right one.

- The Amazon and the Nile are the widest rivers in the world.
.....
- The biggest river in Venezuela is the Amazon.
.....
- There are many bridges over the Amazon river.
.....
- Many people go on holiday to Manaus every year and they go on walks or take boat trips in the lake.
.....
- All of the world's clean water is in the Amazon and its rivers.
.....

2 Match the questions and the answers.

- Why is the air hot and wet all the time?
- Why are forests getting smaller?
- Why are rain forests important?
- Why do people go to the doctor?
- Why are doctors interested in the plants of the rain forests?
- Why are we worried about the plants in the rain forest?
 - Because most water stays in the trees.
 - Because they are disappearing fast.
 - Because we are losing many hundreds of kinds of plants every year.
 - Because they get medicines from them.
 - Because they give us food and medicines.
 - Because they are sick and need medicines.

Pages 10–15

3 Are these sentences right (✓) or wrong (X)?

- The rain forests around the world are disappearing and the weather is changing. ☐
- In Jamaica, Cuba and the Americas people never cut down the big hardwood trees. ☐
- Brazil built a lot of new roads into and around the rain forest only for the people to use. ☐
- There are many Indians who speak different languages and live in different ways living in the rain forests today. ☐
- The Indians living in the rain forests move their homes because the soil is tired and dry. ☐

4 Circle the right words.

- The *most dangerous* / *weakest* animals in the rain forests are sometimes very small.
- The little frogs have a very strong *poison* / *smell*.
- The 'Terras Indigenas' are only for *Europeans* / *Indians*.
- The first Europeans to come to Brazil were the *Germans* / *Portuguese*.

Pages 15–25

5 Finish the sentences.

- The old man told Jose and Maria that when the Europeans came to Brazil they brought
- The old man told Jose and Maria that the people from the rain forest know more about the plants than
- The people of the rain forest get poisons from
- The taxi driver told Jose and Maria that when he was a boy
- The taxi driver told Jose and Maria that the rain forest next to the roads

6 Choose the right word from the box.

trips wonderful rubber Paris buildings

- Manaus is a city.
- You can take from the trees year after year.
- Manaus is a good place for vacation
- A lot of people believe that Manaus is the of the forest.
- Manaus is a nice place for vacations because it has nice old to visit.

7 Are these sentences right (✓) or wrong (X)?

- Maria and Jose know that the Indians and the rain forest are very important for the future of their country. ☐
- Year after year the rain forests of the world are getting bigger. ☐
- South America, Asia and Africa are having a lot of problems with their forests. ☐
- The world's weather is always the same. ☐
- Today there are a lot of fires and new farms in the rain forests. ☐

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Book key

1–2 Open answers

3 Answers to the questions on page 1:

1 b 2 c 3 c 4 c 5 c 6 a + Open answers

4 a east b before c no d Negro e down
f small g wet h 200 i medicines

5 Possible answers:

- a The *caboclos* live near the Amazon. After the heavy rains, the river is higher and there is water everywhere. They have to build their houses high above the water. Often they have houses and stores on the water.
 - b The port of Manaus is important because big ships can come to it up the Amazon from the ocean. They bring things from the other countries of the world. They take out the wood, rubber, and foods from the rain forest.
 - c Most of the birds and animals live in the tops of the trees. They never go down to the ground.
 - d Hot, wet air goes up from the trees when the sun is hot. Above the trees, the air gets colder and the water falls.
 - e The plants of the rain forests give us medicines. A quarter of the medicines in the world come from rain forest plants. Doctors are finding new medicines every year in these plants.
- 6 a Possible answer: The rain forests are disappearing. People are cutting the trees down.
b Open answers
- 7 a smaller b worse/warmer c colors d roads
e killed f languages g poison h diseases
i bigger j rubber
- 8 Possible answers:
- a A man is cutting down a hardwood tree.
 - b He works for a company, and the company is going to sell the wood.
 - c Maybe the company—or another company—is going to make furniture from the wood.
 - d It is a problem because large numbers of trees are disappearing. Companies also have to take the trees out of the rain forest to the cities and ports, so there are big roads across the forest. More trees disappear for these roads. When the trees disappear, the weather changes. This is bad for farmers in Brazil, but also for people in other countries.

9 Open answers

10 a ✓ b ✗ c ✓ d ✗ e ✗ f ✗ g ✗ h ✓
i ✗ j ✓ k ✓

11 a Possible answers: They are not fighting the white men. There are parks in the forest, and they can live there. They can help doctors and work with people on vacation. They don't die from the diseases of Europeans.

b–c Open answers

12–17 Open answers

Discussion activities key

1–4 Open answers

5 Suggested answers: It is one of the longest rivers. Hundreds of rivers run through the Amazon. In the center of Brazil the Amazon is twenty kilometers wide. There are no bridges over the river.

6 Suggested answers:

What they usually eat	What they eat when they are hungry	Their size	Their teeth
plants, seeds, fruit, smaller fish	meat	less than half a meter long	big

7 Suggested answers: These are all South American countries. Brazil is the biggest country; Manaus, Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro are Brazilian cities. Brazil has got the biggest rain forest; Bolivia, Peru and Brazil have got a lot of mountains. Ecuador is the smallest country.

+ Open answers

8 Open answers

9 Suggested questions and answers: *What do we do when we are sick? We go to the doctor.*
Where do many medicines come from? Many come from the rain forest.
What is happening to the plants in the rain forests? They are disappearing fast.

10–14 Open answers

15 Suggested answers: Rain forests are getting smaller. We have lost half of the world's rain forests. Countries want to make money from rain forests. Many square kilometers of rain forests are disappearing every year.

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16 Suggested answers:

What wood was used for in the past	What wood is used for now
for furniture: desks, tables, beds, closets, boxes, shelves, etc. to build houses	Open answers

17–18 Open answers

19 Suggested answers: The weather is changing. The soil is not good. There is no rain for a time. There is a lot of rain for a time. Forests take dirty air from cities. People are using too much of the Amazon's wood for furniture and its plants for medicine.

20–25 Open answers

26 Suggested answers:

Manaus in the past	Manaus today
Europeans came to Manaus and built a small town in the 1600s. The Portuguese made a lot of money on rubber. Manaus was full of rich people in the 1900s.	Big ships come into the busy port. It is an interesting city. It is a good place for vacation.

27–28 Open answers

Activity worksheets key

- 1 a The Amazon and the Nile
b The Andes mountains
c The Caboclos
d The Negro (River)
e Big ships
f The mouth of the Amazon
g Piranhas

2 Open answers

- 3 a **X**: hot
b **X**: plants, birds, animals
c **X**: a great number: 90%
d ✓
e ✓

4 a 7 b 1 c 2 d 6 e 3 f 4 g 5

5 a 5 b 3 c 6 d 1 e 2 f 4

- 6 a Thomas Chippendale
b North American
c Jamaica
d Amazon
e Brazil
f Recife, Peru
- 7 a Europeans > Indians or Amerindians
b the same language > different languages
c no > most
d homes > medicines
e sea > river
f piranhas > frogs
- 8 a A lot of the Indians of the rain forest died because the Europeans *brought diseases*.
b In the 1960s, the countries of South America started to *help the Indians*.
c The people and the visitors on vacation in the rain forest can see *the wildlife of the place*.
d With the money from the coffee and the rubber, the Europeans built *new roads and cities*.
e Almost all the people in Brazil today *speak Portuguese*.
- 9 a **X** b **X** c ✓ d ✓ e ✓ f **X** g **X** h ✓
- 10 a Near Sao Paulo
b Because they were poor and their country gave them money for a new farm.
c Coffee, sugar and fruit
d Four years
e Manaus
f Rubber trees
g Because people in the US and Britain made a cheaper kind of rubber. Also, other countries started growing rubber.
h 20%
i No

11 a 2 b 1 c 3 d 1 e 1 f 2

12 Open answers

Progress test key

- 1 a widest > longest
b Venezuela > Brazil
c many > no
d lake > river
e All > 20% / a percentage / a small part
- 2 a 1 b 3 c 5 d 6 e 4 f 2
- 3 a ✓ b **X** c **X** d ✓ e ✓

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- 4 a most dangerous
b poison
c Indians
d Portuguese
- 5 a The old man told Jose and Maria that when the Europeans came to Brazil they brought *a lot diseases which killed a lot of Indians*.
b The old man told Jose and Maria that the people from the rain forest know more about the plants than *the doctors*.
c The people of the rain forest get poisons from *plants and frogs*.
d The taxi driver told Jose and Maria that when he was a boy *he and his family moved into the forest because they had not house, no work and no money*.
e The taxi driver told Jose and Maria that the rain forest next to the roads *died and no there are no farms, no forest trees and not many people*.
- 6 a wonderful
b rubber
c trips
d Paris
e buildings
- 7 a ✓ b ✗ c ✓ d ✗ e ✓