

Success:

I know that there are many tribes living in the Amazon rainforest

I can give reasons as to why the tribes have changed over time



How Many Amazon Tribes Are There?

It is home to more than 400 tribes and indigenous groups. These tribal peoples have always lived in the Amazon rainforest, which makes it their ancestral home.

International law recognises the rights of tribal peoples to live in their lands – this is known as tribal peoples' land rights. Both the United Nations and other organisations that protect human rights have declared that ancestral lands belong to the indigenous groups that live in them and need to be protected. In reality, these indigenous groups are in danger.

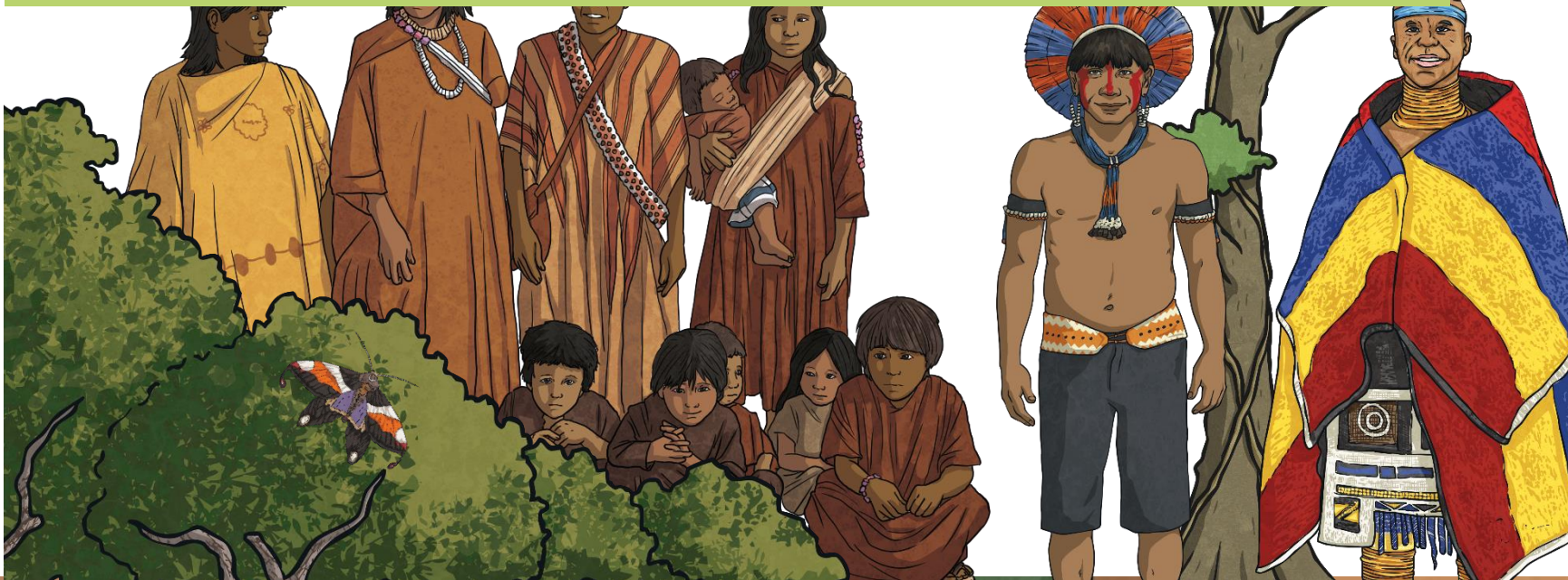


A Rainforest Home

There are around 400 different tribes. Approximately 77 tribes live in isolation, with no contact with the outside world.

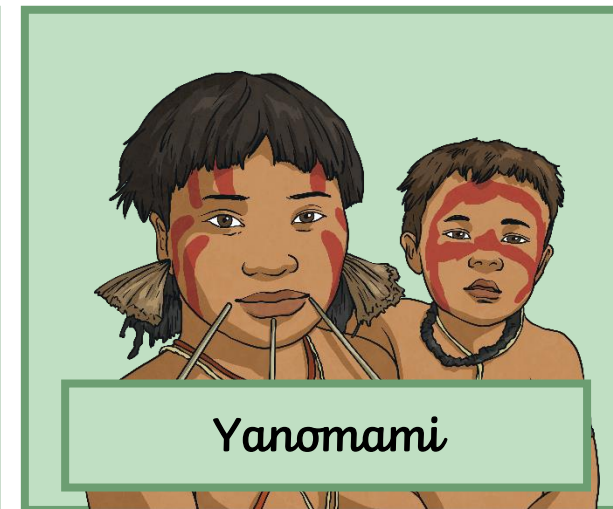
Some tribes are made up of thousands of people and others have only a few hundred members.

Many tribes are under threat from deforestation due to logging or ranching. Infectious diseases are also very dangerous for them.



Tribes

The names of some Amazon tribes are:



Dangers to Amazon Tribal Peoples

Tribal peoples in the Amazon face many dangers; the most significant being colonisation and deforestation.

Colonisation

When European settlers arrived in the Americas in the 15th century, millions of people in indigenous groups died due to diseases, such as flu, that the settlers brought with them.

Today, colonisation comes in the form of land grabbers. These are people who settle illegally, often by means of violence, in the lands where tribal peoples live, bringing with them illnesses, such as malaria.



Deforestation

In 2001, the Amazon rainforest covered 5.4 million km² - approximately 87% of the surface it originally covered. Most of the deforestation occurred in the Brazilian forest, mainly due to cattle ranching and crop growing.

However, in areas where tribal peoples have been able to stay in their land, deforestation has been stopped. Scientists have referred to the lands of tribal peoples as 'the most important barrier to Amazon deforestation'.



The Amazon Rubber Boom

The Amazon Rubber Boom took place between 1879 and 1912.

In the middle of the 19th century, Charles Goodyear discovered that cooking and treating latex from rubber trees turned it into a product that had many different uses. This was followed by the invention of tyres by John Dunlop in 1888. Finally, Henry Ford began mass production of the newly invented motor car at around the same time. These events created a pressing need for rubber.

When it became known that the rubber tree grew abundantly in the Amazon rainforest, thousands of fortune-seekers rushed into the lands of the Amazon tribal peoples. However, they needed workers to collect the latex. Tens of thousands of members of the Amazon indigenous groups were enslaved.



The Yanomami

The Yanomami are considered the largest isolated indigenous group in South America. Their population is approximately 35,000.

They live in northern Brazil and southern Venezuela in communal, circular homes, known as 'yanos' or 'shabonos'. The yano has a big, central space for celebrations. The Yanomami sleep in hammocks made from cotton or palm fibre, hung from the roofed area of the yano.

One of the greatest threats to their survival is a road that was built in the 1970s. This was used during a gold rush in the 1980s, where 40,000 gold miners invaded the Yanomami land. The gold prospectors brought diseases to the area, to which the Yanomami had no immunity. In only seven years, 20% of the Yanomami died.



The Tupi

Before colonisation, the Tupi were one of the most numerous tribal peoples indigenous to Brazil.

It is estimated that, in 1500 when the Portuguese arrived in Brazil, their population was around 1 million - nearly the same as the population in Portugal at that time.

However, they were enslaved or killed by diseases transmitted by the Portuguese, and later, Brazilian settlers. Having never been exposed to these diseases, the Tupi had no immunity to them. One of these diseases was smallpox.

Today, the Tupinambá are one of the few remaining Tupi communities.



Kawahiva

The Kawahiva tribe live in the Rio Pardo area of Mato Grosso in Brazil. They are nomadic hunter-gatherers who have little contact with the outside world, so not much is known about them. The Kawahiva use bows for hunting.



The Kawahiva's territory and way of life is under threat from loggers and farmers who want to use this land.

The Kayapo

The Kayapo live in a vast area that spreads across the Brazilian states of Pará and Mato Grosso. They live along the Xingu river.

They use intricate black body paint to cover their entire bodies, which allows them to blend into their surroundings when hunting in the forests.

It is estimated that they number around 9,000.

The main threat to their survival comes from the hydroelectric dams that the Brazilian government have begun to build along the Xingu river. The biggest of these is the Belo Monte dam, which is the fourth largest in the world.



The Awá

The Awá live in the eastern Amazon rainforest. There are approximately 350 members, 100 of which are uncontacted.

Although they originally lived in settlements, they adopted a nomadic hunter-gatherer lifestyle around 1800 to escape from European invaders.

Having had so little contact, or none in the case of their uncontacted members, with the outside world, they are especially vulnerable to diseases. Illegal logging companies have been accused of hiring gunmen to kill them so that they can exploit the rainforest. As they use bows and arrows to hunt, they cannot defend themselves against firearms.



The Korubo

The Korubo are one of the indigenous groups living in the Javari Valley indigenous territory in the western Brazilian Amazon.

Their main threat comes from the outbreaks of diseases, particularly Hepatitis B and C, that have taken place since the tribe was contacted in the 1990s.



Guardians of the Rainforest

In recent years, scientists have discovered that the lands of tribal peoples act as barriers to deforestation.

Using satellite images, researchers have observed indigenous reserves in Brazil. These are lands that have been protected by the FUNAI so that illegal loggers and land grabbers cannot enter them. They found that deforestation was 66% higher outside indigenous reserves than inside while forest fires were considerably higher outside the reserves.

This shows that Amazon tribes have a truly respectful and environmentally friendly lifestyle and that we can consider them guardians of the rainforest.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i7PbMLBm9-8>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yu88xsGweZs>

In the past, tropical rainforests and surrounding areas supported great civilizations like the Mayas, Incas, and Aztecs that developed complex societies and made important contributions to science.

Who were the Incas?

The Incas were a great civilization between 1400 and 1533. They built the largest empire of the native South American people.

The Incas built roads and bridges, developed a postal service, performed brain surgeries, created their own calendar and spoke their own language, Quechua.



How did the Incas build an empire?

Tribes of people already lived in South America for many thousands of years.

The Incas started as a small tribe in Cuzco, Peru.

In 1400, the Incas took over a neighbor tribe, forcing them to become Incas. Then, they continued to take over more and more tribes to the north and south. As the Inca Empire took more tribes and land, they forced the people to work for them.



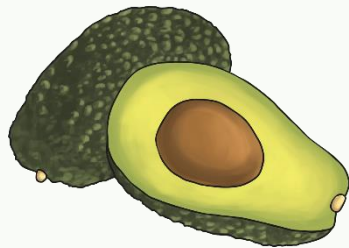
What was life like in the Inca Empire?

Life was very different depending on who you were in the Inca Empire.

Most people were [commoners](#) and farmers. Commoners were forced to work very hard and give food and items to the Inca Empire.

A smaller number of people were [royals](#). Royals lived a luxurious lifestyle and may or may not work. They wore special hairstyles and jewelry to make themselves stand apart from the peasants.

But, the most important of all was the [Sapa Inca](#), or emperor. All the people in the empire had to listen to him.



What happened to the Inca Empire?

In 1528, the Inca empire was split by a civil war over who would be crowned the next Sapa Inca. This war lasted for 5 years and when the fighting finally stopped, many people had died and those who survived were exhausted.

At the same time, the Spanish explorer Francisco Pizarro arrived in Cuzco. He and his soldiers saw all the gold and jewels and wanted them. Over the next 50 years, the Spanish explorers captured all the Incan cities. They also spread diseases, like smallpox, which killed almost all the people in the Inca Empire.

In 1572, the Spanish conquerors killed the last Inca emperor.



Are the Incas left today?

While the Inca civilization no longer survives, there are still people with long-ago Inca relatives. Many descendants can be found in modern day Peru, where about eight million people continue to speak the Inca language of Quechua.

Buildings and objects still remain from the Inca times, like the incredible settlement of [Machu Picchu](#).



Machu Picchu, the Inca city found in modern day Peru.



Thursday 6th October

L – how has life changed for
people of the Amazon?

Task:

Mild: a 'poster style' report

Hot: an information report

Flaming Hot: a formal information report with subheadings

Success:

I know that there are many tribes living in the Amazon rainforest

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Tribes from the rainforest:

Yanomami

Tupi

Awa

Kayapo

Incas

Kawahiva

How life has changed for the people of the Amazon

Deforestation
Need for natural resources
destroys rainforest:

Rubber - tyres

Wood

Cattle ranching

Crop growing

Latex

Gold rush

Fight for land

Diseases that colonisation
brought:

Small pox, malaria, influenza

Tribes have no immunity

Slavery

War

Weapons/firearms

Hydroelectric dams

How has life changed for the people of the Amazon?

Who lived in the Amazon?

Many tribes live in the Amazon rainforest and have done so for thousands of years. Tribes such as the Tupi, Yanomami, Kayapo and Awa made the rainforest their home.

Why were tribes put in danger?

Explorers trying to find resources or conquer land brought many different diseases into the tribes such as flu, smallpox and malaria. Without immunity, they died.

Wars with firearms caused by explorers killed many tribes as they didn't have the weapons to retaliate.

Deforestation (caused by cattle ranching, crop growing) has meant that tribal homes have been destroyed.

The need for natural resources, (such as rubber, wood, medicinal plants) found in the rainforest has meant that tribal land has been destroyed or taken over.