

Name _____

Date _____

Human Activity in the Amazon

The Amazon rain forest is rich in resources that are in high demand around the world. These resources often lie deep in the forest. This makes it difficult to transport these resources to other places where they can be easily exported to the countries that want them. A transcontinental railroad could transport resources more efficiently, but it also means developing areas of the forest that had previously been untouched. This level of development will affect the land cover that surrounds the railroad, which will alter the ecosystem and impact the livelihood of indigenous people. Using the map, Amazonia: The Human Impact, complete this worksheet to predict the effects the railroad may have on the surrounding ecosystem and neighboring indigenous territories.

Part 1. Land Cover in the Amazon

1. What countries and territories are located in Amazonia?

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

2. Which country holds most of the rain forest? How much? _____

3. Look at the lower right of the map for the land cover key. Use the large map and the land cover key to answer the questions below.

a. Where are high-density evergreen forests located? _____

Human Activity in the Amazon, continued

b. Where do you see a lot of cropland, grassland, and savannah? _____

c. Identify patterns of land cover throughout the Amazon rain forest. _____

Part 2. Habitat Loss in the Amazon

In the bottom left of the map Amazonia: The Human Impact, you will see a smaller map titled Altered Landscape. Use this map and keys to answer the questions below.

1. What parts of the Amazon rain forest are experiencing the most habitat loss due to fires?

2. What parts of the Amazon rain forest are experiencing the most habitat loss due to deforestation?

Human Activity in the Amazon, continued

3. Why do you think habitat loss due to fires and deforestation is occurring in these areas?

4. What are the implications of habitat loss in these areas and what might this mean for the future of the forest?

Part 3. Indigenous Territories in the Amazon

In the top right of the map Amazonia: The Human Impact there is a smaller map of Managed Areas. Identify the key for indigenous territories and use the map to answer the questions below.

1. How many indigenous territories are in Amazonia? _____

2. What parts of the Amazon Basin have a lot of indigenous territories? _____

3. Where are there few indigenous territories in the Amazon Basin? _____

Human Activity in the Amazon, continued

4. Why do you think indigenous territories are located in the places they are in the Amazon Basin? _____

5. What might the implications of habitat loss be for indigenous territories? _____

Part 4. Human Activity in the Amazon

Use all the map keys and maps from the previous sections to answer the questions below.

1. Study the roads throughout the Amazon rain forest. Where are most of the roads located on the map? _____

2. How many miles of roads are in the Brazilian Amazon alone? _____

3. Is there a relationship between habitat loss and roads? If so, what is the relationship? _____

Human Activity in the Amazon, continued

4. Is there a relationship between land cover and roads? If so, what is the relationship?

5. What does the following statement mean? The first road through a natural habitat can mark the beginning of the end.

Part 5. Considering the Impact of a Railroad in the Amazon

Look at the area around the proposed transcontinental railroad. Brainstorm potential effects if the railroad is to be constructed. Complete the chart to consider various implications.

	What does this look like now?	What might this look like if the railroad is built?
Land Cover		
Habitat Loss (due to fires and deforestation)		
Indigenous Territories		