

Name _____

Date _____

Role of Trees in the Amazon

In a tropical rain forest, trees play important roles in the water and nutrient cycles, including providing habitats for many organisms. Deforestation, or the destruction or removal of forests and their undergrowth, is happening throughout the Amazon rain forest due to human activity. Mining, logging, and the construction of dams and roads are clearing sections of the forest faster than the forest can rebuild. This is causing the plants and animals that live in these areas to relocate or die. Using the map, Amazonia: Vital and Fragile, explore the effects of deforestation on the Amazon rain forest.

Part 1. Types of Rain Forest

1. There are three main types of forest described on the map. What are they and how have trees adapted to living in the different environments?

Type of Forest	Tree Adaptations	Reason for Adaptations

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2. Using the map, list three animals that live in each type of forest.

Type of Forest	Animals That Live There

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3. Complete the table below to identify the three types of water in the rivers in Amazon, how they differ, what type of forest they are found in, and at least two animals that live in that water type.

Water Type	Description	Type of Forest	Animals

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Part 2. Forest Layers

1. Along the right side of the map, there are descriptions of the four layers (strata) of the forest. What varies at each vegetation level?

2. Identify the four layers of the forest, describe the climate in each, and list at least two different organisms (trees and animals) that live in each layer.

Forest Layer	Climate Description	Types of Organisms

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3. Why do certain organisms live in certain parts of the forest?

4. What happens to the organisms if their habitat is destroyed or reduced?

Part 3. Water and Nutrient Cycles

Study the water and nutrient cycles on the map and answer the following questions:

1. Describe, step-by-step, what happens to the water when it rains in the Amazon.

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2. How much rainfall circulates back into the atmosphere?

3. Where are nine-tenths of the Amazon's nutrients stored?

4. Summarize the role of trees in both the water and nutrient cycles in the Amazon rain forest.

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