

Amazon Tribal Peoples

Amazon Rainforest

The Amazon Rainforest is the world's largest rainforest. It spreads across parts of nine countries: Guyana, Suriname, French Guiana, Brazil, Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador, Colombia and Venezuela.

The Amazon Rainforest is known as the

'Lungs of the Earth'

because 15% of the photosynthesis on the planet happens here.



Tribal Peoples

The Yanomani

The Yanomani are the largest indigenous group in South America. They have a population of around 35,000.

The Tupi

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

The Kayapo

The Kayapo have a population of around 8,000. They live in a vast area along the Xingu river in Brazil.

The Korubo

The Korubo live in the Javari Valley in the western Brazilian Amazon Rainforest.

The Awá

The Awá live in the Eastern areas of the Amazon Rainforest. They have a population of around 350, of which around 100 are uncontacted.



Dangers to Tribal Peoples

Deforestation

In 2001, the Amazon Rainforest covered 5.4 million km² – approximately 87% of the surface it originally covered.

Most of the deforestation has happened due to land use for cattle ranching and crop growing. There are now protected lands where indigenous peoples live to stop deforestation.



Colonisation

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

Rubber Boom

Between 1879 and 1912, there was a large boom in felling rubber trees in the Amazon Rainforest for the latex they contained.

Tens of thousands of indigenous peoples were enslaved to collect the latex. Those that escaped fell victim to epidemics brought in from other countries.

Today, colonisation continues to be a threat with people taking indigenous lands illegally and spreading disease such as malaria.