

## **The Kaxinawá – what you need to know**

1. The Kaxinawá live in the state of Acre in Brazil's western Amazon and along the Purus and Curanja rivers in eastern Peru.
2. Approximately 7,500 Kaxinawá live in Brazil.
3. Their language belongs to the Panoan linguistic family.
4. The Kaxinawá suffered greatly during the rubber boom, which began at the end of 19<sup>th</sup> century. They were enslaved, like many other Indians from this part of the Amazon. They suffered brutal violence and disease brought in by outsiders, and many died.
5. The Kaxinawá hunt for meat and fish. Men use guns and three types of arrows to catch game. Fish are sometimes caught on communal fishing trips.
6. Natural foods and materials are collected from the forest. Staples include bananas, peanuts, beans, manioc and cotton.
7. The division of duties between the sexes is clearly defined. Men hunt and plant, whilst women harvest crops and cook.
8. Shamanism is an important aspect of Kaxinawá culture. Rituals, myths and dances are often kept alive within communities.
9. Some Kaxinawá like to paint their bodies red and black using natural dyes from forest shrubs, and blacken their teeth using the Nixpu plant, as decoration for festivals and rituals.
10. The Kaxinawá, like many indigenous peoples, have a deep connection to their forest home, which provides them with food and shelter. They are now threatened by illegal logging and deforestation, particularly intense on the Peruvian side of the border.