

Audio-visual materials for younger learners (for learners aged 5-11)

Dear educator,

Thank you very much for choosing Survival International's educational resources. A core part of our mission is supporting teachers in introducing Indigenous rights to young people. Our engaging resources are designed to make learning about the struggles and rights of Indigenous peoples accessible and meaningful for students of all ages.

This resource guide aimed at children aged 5-11 features audio-visual materials about the importance of the rainforest for Indigenous peoples around the world. It is structured as follows:

- A. Video testimonials from Indigenous people living in forests across the world
- B. Introductory videos about the importance of the forest for Indigenous peoples as well as its destruction by mining and logging
- C. Time-lapse videos featuring the Baka and Awá people
- D. Immersive rainforest sound resources

Before you use this guide with your students, you may want to take a look at our [Introduction to Indigenous peoples](#) for learners of all ages.

Please feel free to use this resource to best suit your students' needs. All we ask is that you reinforce **three key messages:**

1. There are more than 476 million Indigenous people worldwide, who form part of extraordinarily diverse societies with ways of life that are just as modern as anyone else's. They have technologies, laws, education, religions, and complex social, political, and economic structures. Like all societies, Indigenous peoples continually evolve – embracing tools like mobile phones and social media while adapting their ancestral techniques to challenges such as climate change. This doesn't make them any less Indigenous.
2. Indigenous identity is deeply rooted in their connection to their land. Many Indigenous peoples rely on their land for their livelihoods and are largely self-sufficient. They have developed intricate systems to live sustainably on their land, fostering strong community ties. Indigenous peoples actively shape and safeguard some of the planet's most biodiverse regions, preserving them for future generations.
3. Indigenous peoples around the globe show remarkable resilience in the face of systemic racism, land theft, forced development, and genocidal violence. They fight tirelessly to defend their rights,

territories, and ways of life. Supporting their struggle and standing in solidarity with their pursuit of justice and self-determination is essential.

To learn more about how to teach about Indigenous peoples' rights and struggles in a culturally sensitive manner, we invite you to look at our [Teaching guidance Indigenous peoples: Dos & Don'ts](#).

Your Survival education team

About Survival International

Survival International is the global campaigning movement for Indigenous peoples' rights. Since 1969, we've been working to prevent their destruction and give them a platform to speak to the world about the genocidal violence, slavery and racism they face on a daily basis. By lobbying the powerful, Survival helps defend the lives, lands and futures of people who should have the same rights as other contemporary societies. Unlike many other organizations, Survival refuses government money and does not take donations from companies that might violate the rights of Indigenous peoples. To learn more, visit www.survivalinternational.org

A. Video testimonies from Indigenous people

“What do we feel living in the rainforest? We feel free” (2.36 min)



Format: member of Yawanawá people speaking in English interlinked with footage of Amazonian peoples

Keywords: Amazon, shaman, rainforest

“Without our forest, we are nothing” (3.28 min)



Format: testimonies of Indigenous people interlinked with footage of deforestation

Keywords: Brazil, Amazon, Malaysia, Congo basin, deforestation, rainforest

Here, Nixiwaka, of the Yawanawá people in Brazil, explains the importance of the Amazon rainforest to him and to all the 1.5 million Indigenous people who live there. Nixiwaka highlights the crucial role Indigenous people play in protecting it. Satellite images show that protected Indigenous territories are a key barrier to deforestation, and hearing Nixiwaka testimony, it's easy to understand why.

Who better to explain the devastating consequences of deforestation than Indigenous people living in forests across the world and who depend on forests for their lives and livelihoods.

Here, Hamangai, Tainaky, Suzanne, and Temenggung explain how the forest is so much more than their home: it provides them with everything they need to survive.

B. Introductory videos

“We’re happy now: the forest is ours!” (2.13 min)



Format: footage of the Awá people, Brazilian Amazon
No dialogue.

Keywords: Brazil, rainforest, Amazon

This upbeat [video](#) highlights how Indigenous peoples can thrive living on and from the land: in the case of the Awá, the rainforest provides them with everything they need to survive and live well. Though often described as ‘poor’ in economic terms, Indigenous peoples living on their land hold wealth in community relationships, knowledges, and sustainability, which are ways of prospering that challenge narrow definitions of success. But critical to preserving their way of life is stopping outsiders from invading and destroying their territories.

“If you destroy the rainforest, you destroy us too” (1.01 min)



Format: footage of the Awá people, Brazilian Amazon and rainforest destruction. Minimal dialogue.
Keywords: deforestation, fire, rainforest, Amazon, digger

This poignant [video](#) aims to help students to see that deforestation in the Amazon rainforest isn’t just an environmental catastrophe, it’s a humanitarian disaster for the 1.5 million Indigenous people who call it home. Of course, it needn’t be this way: when the rights of Indigenous peoples are respected and their lands protected against outsiders, they can thrive in the rainforest.

When the miners came (3.17 min)



Format: footage of different Indigenous peoples, footage of mined areas of Indigenous territories
Keywords: mining, Brazil, India, nature, destruction, consent, Yanomami

This powerful [video](#) depicts the destructive effects of mining on Indigenous peoples’ land without their consent. It underscores the fundamental importance of nature in the lives of Indigenous peoples, and the dire ramifications if their lands are mined without permission.

"My home is not yours to destroy" (1.47 min)



Format: animated video

Keywords: rainforest, illegal mining, Amazon, fire

Teaching your youngest students about the 1.5 million Indigenous people living in the Amazon Rainforest? Start with this captivating, animated [video](#) on the Yanomami, a people living across the borders of Venezuela and Brazil. For the Yanomami – and all Amazonian peoples – the rainforest isn't just their home, it's their lifeline, essential for survival. When illegal gold miners invade their territory, they won't back down, fighting tirelessly to protect their lands.

C. Time-lapse videos

Too often Indigenous people are referred to as “backwards” and “ignorant”, their immense wealth of knowledge and expertise overlooked and scorned. These fun time-lapse videos seek to highlight Indigenous ingenuity and show just how at home Indigenous people can be in the rainforest. Suitable for all ages – and to be enjoyed by adults too.



How to make a rainforest shelter! (1.09 min)

The Baka people in Cameroon [show you](#) how to make a *mongulu*, a rainforest shelter, using just leaves and plants from the forest.

Format: Time-lapse video of the Baka. Images only, no dialogue.



How to make an eco-backpack (1.57 min)

The Awá people in Brazil [show you](#) how to make a rucksack using just rainforest leaves.

Format: Timelapse video of the Awá. Images only, no dialogue.

D. Immersive sound resources

Put on your headphones, shut your eyes and let's go to the rainforest! We hope that on listening to this immersive sound resource, your students experience something that's akin to virtual reality for the ears, and the animals, plants and people of the rainforest come to life in your classroom.

- "Is there anybody there?" Sounds of animals, birds and insects deep inside the rainforest
- "We're here too!" Sounds of nature alongside the sounds of daily life of the Yanomami
- "Don't destroy our homes" Sounds of rainforest destruction. Some students may find this difficult to listen to

Length: each soundscape is approximately 2 minutes

Format: binaural sound recording. Headphones are required to enjoy to best effect

Learn more about Survival International's work and how to promote Indigenous peoples' rights

We love hearing from you and your students!

- Does your class have questions on this topic? Would they like to have a brief virtual meeting with a Survival International staff member?
- Do you want to have a Survival International staff member speak at a school assembly?
- Would you, your colleagues, or other educators you know, like to receive more Survival International educational materials? We have materials suitable for groups aged 5 to 18 years.
- Would you like your school to be involved in supporting Survival International's work in partnership with Indigenous peoples?

If the answer is yes, then please get in touch with our team at info@survivalinternational.org

We can't wait to hear from you!