

# Survival



**For Indigenous peoples,  
for nature,  
for all humanity**



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for nature,  
for all humanity**

# **Rainforests & Indigenous peoples**



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# What do you know about rainforests?



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**Close your eyes, if you want, and dive into  
the sounds of the Amazon rainforest.**

**What can you hear?**



# Rainforests

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**Across the world, millions  
of Indigenous people call  
rainforests home.**

**Over 1.5 million Indigenous  
people live in the Amazon  
rainforest.**



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for all humanity**

# Who are 'Indigenous people'?





# Indigenous peoples

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**Indigenous peoples live in  
many places all over the world  
- from the Arctic to the South  
Pacific.**

**They come from the first  
communities that lived in  
these areas, long before other  
people arrived.**



# Indigenous peoples

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for all humanity**



**You can recognize Indigenous peoples by their special languages, customs, and the way they live.**

**They also know and say that they are Indigenous.**



# Indigenous peoples

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for all humanity**



**Many Indigenous peoples live  
in close connection with the  
natural world.**

**Their land is very important to  
them – it gives them food, a  
home, and is part of who they  
are.**



# Indigenous peoples

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**There are more than 5,000  
different Indigenous peoples  
in the world.**

**Together, they are over 476  
million people.**

**They live in over 90  
countries and speak more  
than 4,000 different  
languages.**



# Indigenous peoples

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**Indigenous peoples are very diverse and we can learn a lot from them.**

**They understand nature and how to take care of it.**

**Helping each other and thinking about the community is very important to many Indigenous people.**



# Indigenous peoples

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**They developed many of the  
medicines we use today.**

**They were the first to grow  
important foods like potatoes  
and maize.**



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# What do you know about the Amazon?



# The Amazon

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**The Amazon is a large river  
and a huge rainforest located  
in South America.**

**It runs through 9 countries:  
Brazil (the country with the  
largest part of the Amazon),  
Peru, Colombia, Venezuela,  
Ecuador, Bolivia, Guyana,  
Suriname, and French Guiana.**



# The Amazon – People

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**We talk a lot about the animals and plants in the Amazon, but not so much about the people!**

**There are around 400 Indigenous peoples in the Amazon.**

**Each group has its own language, customs, and ways of life.**

**Many of them live in small communities, near rivers or deep in the rainforest, and they know the forest, animals, and plants very well.**



# The Yanomami

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**One of the largest Indigenous peoples of the Amazon is the Yanomami people.**

**There are about 45,000 Yanomami people.**

**They live in northern Brazil and southern Venezuela, in the heart of the Amazon rainforest.**





# The Yanomami – Homes

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**Many Yanomami live in large circular-shaped houses which have a large open area in the middle.**

**These houses are called malocas, yanos or shabonos.**

**They are usually built with natural materials, such as wood, leaves, and palm. More than 50 different plants are used for building different parts of the house.**



# The Yanomami – Homes

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**They can be an incredible 80 metres long.**

**Sometimes 400 Yanomami people will live together in one yano.**

**Each family has their own fire which they use for cooking during the day.**

**At night, they hang hammocks near the fire, so they stay warm whilst sleeping.**



# The Yanomami – Food

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**The Yanomami eat many different kinds of food.**

**About 80% of their food comes from their gardens in the rainforest.**

**They grow around 60 different crops, like cassava, papaya, maize, sugar cane, yam, sweet potato, bananas, and up to 14 different varieties of plantains!**



# The Yanomami – Food

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**The Yanomami also hunt animals like monkeys, fish, wild boars, and birds.**

**They also catch fish. One way they catch fish is by using a special plant called timbú.**

**Women and children crush the plant and put it into the water. It makes the fish sleepy, so they can pick them up with their hands!**



# The Yanomami – Medicine

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© William MillikenI

**The Yanomami use about 100 plants to make medicine.**

**They are very good at knowing which plants help with different problems.**

**They use different parts of the plant, depending on what someone needs.**



# The Yanomami – Plants

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**The Yanomami use plants to make things like baskets, water bottles, and backpacks.**

**When they go deep into the rainforest, they make hammocks from tree bark to sleep in.**

**They use tree fibres to carry their babies safely.**

**The Yanomami use fruits and leaves to make colours like black, purple, and red for body paint.**



**How many things  
can you see made  
by the Yanomami  
using plants,  
flowers, and trees  
from the  
rainforest?**





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**The Amazon rainforest is everything for many  
Indigenous peoples: their home, their supermarket,  
their pharmacy.**





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© Charlie Hamilton James

A photograph showing a large fire burning in a cleared area of the Amazon rainforest. In the foreground, several firefighters wearing yellow jackets and helmets are standing on a dirt path, looking towards the fire. The background shows tall, thin trees, some of which are charred or partially burned. The sky is hazy with smoke from the fire.

**But the Amazon  
rainforest is under threat.**



# The Amazon – Threats

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**In the Amazon rainforest, many trees are cut down. Often, this is done illegally.**

**Under the ground in the rainforest, there are things like gold, oil and gas that some people want to take out. To do this, they dig up the land, and often pollute the rivers with chemicals.**

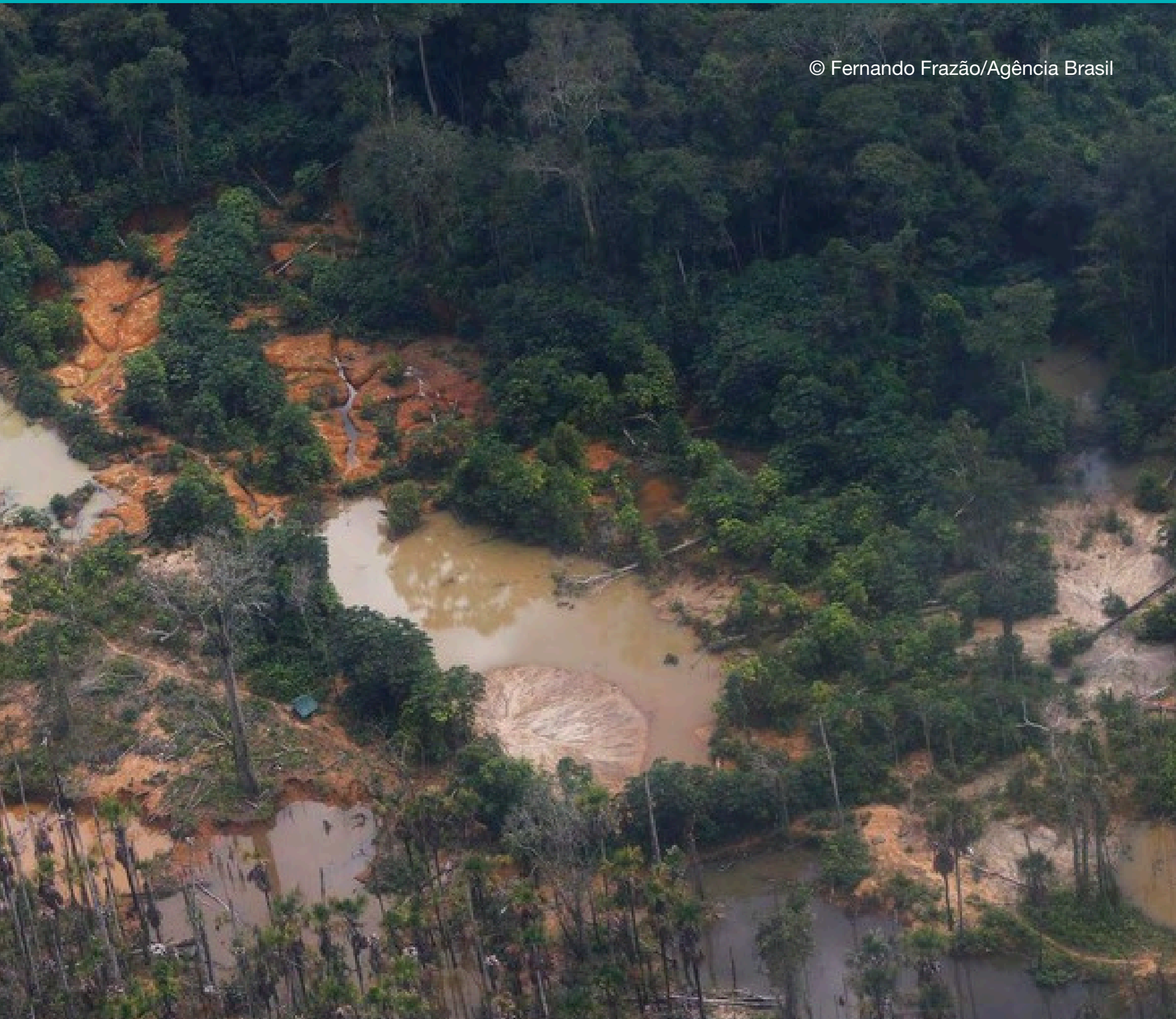
**Some farmers and ranchers cut down and burn parts of the rainforest to make space to grow crops or graze cattle.**

**Every minute, an area of the Amazon the size of 10 football pitches is destroyed.**



# The Yanomami – Threats

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© Fernando Frazão/Agência Brasil

**The Yanomami people are in danger.**

**Many gold miners have come into their land and are cutting down the forest illegally.**

**To live, the Yanomami need a healthy forest and clean water.**

**In the past few years, many Yanomami have died because of the destruction of their forest.**



## **"My home is not yours to destroy" - Films from Survival International**

Do you need teaching resources for younger learners on the Amazon Rainforest and the 1.5 million Indigenous people who live there? Check out this animated video 👉 about the Yanomami, an Amazonian...

 [survivalinternational.org /](https://www.survivalinternational.org/)

**<https://www.survivalinternational.org/films/698696369>**



# The Yanomami – Fight

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**But the Yanomami are standing strong  
and trying to protect their land.**

**It's important to stand up for the rights  
of Indigenous peoples like the  
Yanomami, as they try to live safely,  
healthily and peacefully in their  
rainforest.**

**It's also important for all of us —  
because they help take care of the  
rainforest and the planet.**



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# What can we do to support them?





**For Indigenous peoples,  
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**Become a (rain)forest expert!**

**Spread the word!**

**Follow organizations like Survival International –  
the global campaigning movement for  
Indigenous peoples' rights!**

**Indigenous peoples are protecting our  
planet – and when we support them, we help  
protect it too.**



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# Thank you!

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