

Survival



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



Rainforests & Indigenous peoples

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- Hi everyone!
- Today, we're going on an exciting adventure into the world's rainforests!
- We'll zoom in on the biggest rainforest of all — the Amazon rainforest — and get to know one of the Indigenous people who call it home.
- Are you ready? Let's explore!



What do you know about rainforests?

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- You probably already know that rainforests are big, green places with lots of trees, animals, and rain!
- They are super important because they help give us clean air to breathe. Some of them are really hot and wet, and it rains almost every day!
- There are so many animals in the rainforest, like monkeys, parrots, frogs, and even jaguars!
- The Amazon rainforest is the biggest one in the world, and it's in South America. People say it's like the "lungs of the Earth" because it makes a lot of oxygen. The Amazon River, one of the biggest rivers in the world, flows right through the heart of the Amazon rainforest.



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

What can you hear?

- Now, if you'd like, close your eyes and let yourself dive into the sounds of the Amazon rainforest. Listen carefully – what can you hear?
- [Listening activity] <https://soundcloud.com/web-master-547425981/sounds-of-the-rainforest-were-here-too>
- At first, you'll probably hear the sounds of water, birds, and insects – but after a while, you might also notice human voices.
- This is because rainforests aren't just full of plants and animals – many people live there too!



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

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

- Across the world, millions of Indigenous peoples call rainforests home.
- In the Amazon rainforest, for example, around 1.5 million Indigenous people live there.

Who are 'Indigenous people'?



- But who are "Indigenous people"?



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 live all around the world — from the freezing lands of the Arctic to the sunny islands of the South Pacific.

- They are the first people who lived in these places, long before others came. Their families have been there for hundreds or even thousands of years!



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

They also know and say that they are Indigenous.

- You can recognize Indigenous peoples by the languages they speak, their customs and the ways they live.

- One important thing to remember is this: Indigenous people call themselves Indigenous. It's part of who they are and how they see themselves.



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.

- Many Indigenous peoples live very close to nature.
- The land is super important to them — it gives them food, a place to live, and it's a big part of who they are.



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.

- Did you know that there are more than 5,000 different Indigenous peoples around the world?
- That's over 476 million people !
- They live in more than 90 countries and speak over 4,000 different languages.



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 are very diverse and there is a lot we can learn from them.
- They know so much about nature and how to take good care of it.
- Instead of trying to have lots of things just for themselves, they also believe that helping each other and sharing what you have is very important – it's all about the community, not just one person.



They developed many of the medicines we use today.

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

- Did you know that many medicines we use today come from plants Indigenous people discovered?
- They were also the first to grow important foods like potatoes and maize that now feed millions!

What do you know about the Amazon?

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- As we've seen before, when we hear the word Amazon, we might think of a huge rainforest, lots of animals, or a long, powerful river



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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.

- You're right! The Amazon is full all these things.
- But did you know that the Amazon isn't just one big river — it's a huge rainforest that spreads across nine different countries in South America!
- The biggest part is in a country called Brazil, but the Amazon also reaches into Peru, Colombia, Venezuela, Ecuador, Bolivia, Guyana, Suriname, and French Guiana.



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.

- Now let's take a moment to talk about the people who live in the Amazon – because the forest isn't just full of animals and trees!
- There are about 400 different Indigenous peoples living there. That means 400 different cultures, with their own languages, customs, and ways of life!
- Many of these communities live near rivers or deep in the rainforest. They know the forest better than anyone – which plants are helpful, which animals live where, and how to take care of nature.



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.

- One of the largest Indigenous peoples in the Amazon rainforest are the Yanomami people.
- There are about 45,000 Yanomami, and they live mostly in northern Brazil and southern Venezuela.
- They live deep in the heart of the rainforest, surrounded by trees, rivers, and animals.
- Earlier, you heard a soundscape of the Yanomami in their daily life – the sounds of the forest, their voices, and their way of living close to nature.



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.

- Many Yanomami live in big, round houses called malocas, yanos, or shabonos.
- These houses have a big open space in the middle, creating a communal space for gatherings and activities.
- The Yanomami usually build these homes using only natural materials from the rainforest – like wood, leaves, and palm branches.
- They use over 50 different plants to build all the parts of the house!



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.

- Imagine living in a home that's as long as a football field — about 80 meters!
- In these giant houses, up to 400 Yanomami people can live together.
- Each family has its own fire, where they cook food during the day.
- At night, families hang up their hammocks near the fire so they stay warm whilst sleeping.



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 just like us eat many different kinds of food and they get about 80% of it from their own rainforest gardens.
- Now imagine a garden with around 60 different kinds of plants!
- They grow yummy foods like cassava, papaya, maize (corn), and sugar cane.
- But that's not all – they also grow yams, sweet potatoes, bananas, and an amazing 14 kinds of plantains!



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 don't just grow food – they also hunt and fish in the rainforest.
- They hunt animals like monkeys, wild boars, and birds, which are an important part of what they eat.
- And they also catch fish.
- They use a special plant called timbú. The women and children crush the plant and put it into the water. This makes the fish feel sleepy, so they float to the top – and then the Yanomami can gently scoop them up with their hands!



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 use around 100 different plants to make their own medicines. And it's not guessing – they know exactly which plants help with which problems.
- They don't just use the whole plant – they know the right part to use, depending on what someone needs.
- For example, if someone has a cold or feels dizzy, they might crush some special leaves and breathe in the smell to feel better.



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.

- The Yanomami use the plants around them for everyday life – the rainforest gives them almost everything they need!
- Let's see how they use plants in their daily lives:
- They make baskets, water bottles, and backpacks from plant materials.
- When they travel deep into the forest, they even make hammocks from tree bark to sleep in.
- To carry their babies, they use soft tree fibers to make safe, comfy slings.
- And they use fruits and leaves to make bright body paint!
The colors can be black, purple, red, and more.



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



© Bob Masters/ Survival International



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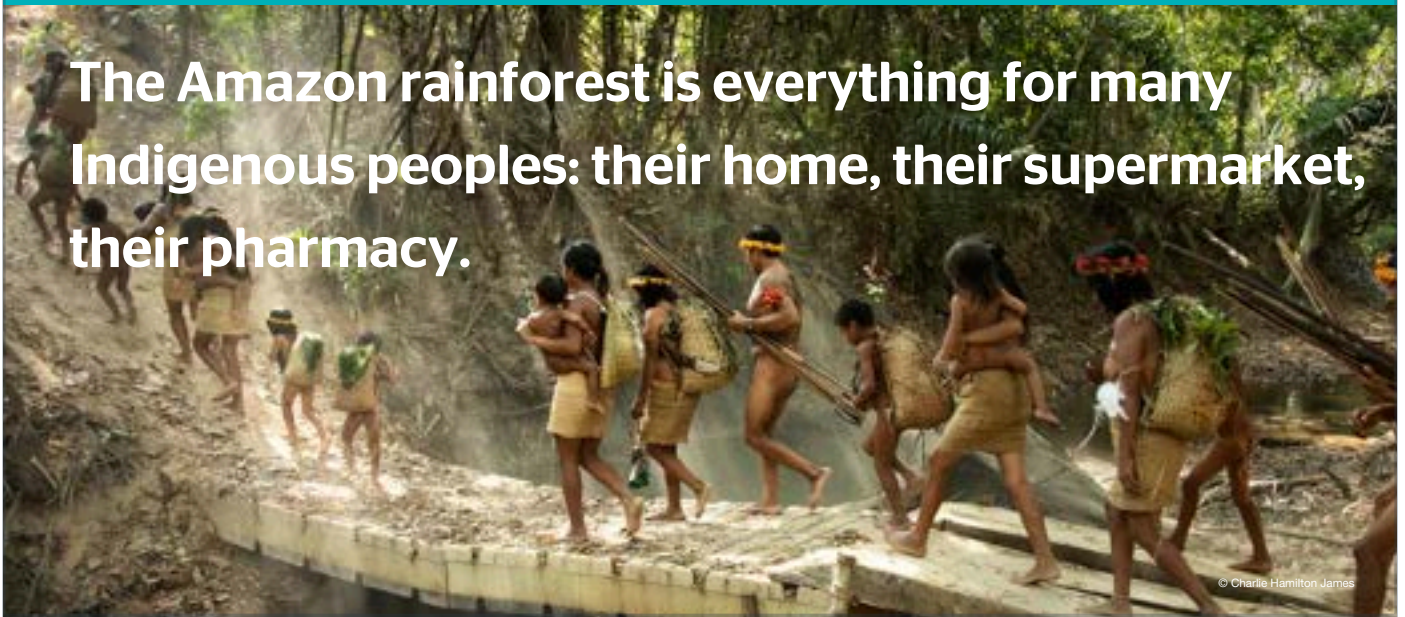


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- By now, you've seen that the Yanomami know a lot about plants — and they use them in so many different ways.
- This shows just how closely connected they are to the rainforest.
- Let's look at the pictures together. Can you spot how the plants are being used?
- Some are used as decoration — to wear or to paint with.
- Some are used for rain protection — like natural umbrellas!
- Others become tools, bowls, or even tables!



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



© Charlie Hamilton James

- The rainforest isn't just where the Yanomami live — it's a part of everything they do!
- For the Indigenous peoples who live there, the Amazon is much more than just a forest.
- It's their home, their supermarket, and even their pharmacy!
- Imagine living in a place where the trees, rivers, and plants give you your food, your shelter, your medicine, and are part of your ways of life too.

For the Yanomami and many other Indigenous peoples, the Amazon is not just a place — it's a lifeline, a teacher, and a sacred space.



- However, the Amazon rainforest is at risk as you can see in the picture.



© Sarah Shenker/ Survival International

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.

- Now let's take a closer look at some of the dangers facing the Amazon rainforest today.
- One big problem is that many trees are being cut down – and often this is done illegally, which means it's against the law.
- Under the ground, there are things like gold, oil, and gas. Some people dig deep into the land to take these things out, but this can harm the rainforest and the animals and plants that live there.
- Another big threat is from farming. To grow crops or raise cows, people often clear large parts of the forest. This is called deforestation, and it can really hurt the environment, including the animals, plants, and even the people who live there.
- Every minute, an area of the Amazon the size of 10 football pitches is destroyed.



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.

- The Yanomami people are facing a very serious problem.
- Many people looking for gold illegally have entered their land without permission. They are cutting down the forest, which the Yanomami depend on to live.
- Sadly, because of these dangers, many Yanomami have lost their lives in recent years.



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

- When gold miners come into Yanomami land illegally, it causes a lot of harm to the people and the rainforest.
- But the Yanomami are brave — they're not giving up.
- They are doing everything they can to protect their home, their forest, and their way of life as you can see in this video.
- <https://www.survivalinternational.org/films/698696369>



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.

- The Yanomami are standing strong and doing their best to protect their land.
- It's really important to support Indigenous peoples like the Yanomami, so they can live in the rainforest safely, with health and peace.
- And it's not just important for them — it's important for all of us.
- The Yanomami help take care of the rainforest, and the rainforest helps take care of the whole planet — including the air we breathe!

What can we do to support them?



- So what can we do to support them?

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.**



- First, become an Amazon expert! Learn all you can about the rainforest, the Indigenous peoples that live there, and the problems they face. The more you know, the more you can help!

- Next, spread the word!

Tell your friends, family, and even your classmates what you've learned. When more people know what's happening, more people can help.

- You can also follow organizations like Survival International – they work to defend the rights of Indigenous peoples around the world. Supporting them helps their voice go further.

- And remember: Indigenous peoples are protecting our planet – and when we support them, we help protect it too.



- Thank you all for being here today!