

Year 6 - Geography - Brazil, Amazing Amazon



Sticky Knowledge

Brazil is a large country in South America.

Brazil contains about 60% of the Amazon rainforest.

About 209 million people live in + Brazil and it is home to large cities like Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo.

The capital city is Brasilia.

Only around 6% of the Earth's land surface is rainforest - but about half of all animals and plant species live there.

It can take ten minutes for a falling raindrop to travel from a rainforest's thick canopy to the floor.

The Amazon rainforest in South America is so big that if it were a country, it would be the ninth biggest in the world.

Why is the Amazon so important?

Subject specific Vocabulary

Biodiversity	Variety of plant and animal life in a particular habitat, a high level of which is usually considered to be important and desirable.
Biomes	Distinct biological communities that have formed in response to a shared physical climate.
Brasilia	The capital city of Brazil.
Canopy	The canopy can be over 30m above the ground. IT is made up of the overlapping branches and leaves of rainforest trees.
Deforestation	When forests are cut down and the area is permanently cleared for another use.
Emergent layer	This is the name given to the tops of the trees that poke up above the rainforest canopy.
Endangered	An endangered species is a species which has been categorised as very like to become extinct. This include animals and plants.
Equator	The imaginary circle around the earth that is halfway between the North and South Poles.
Extinction	The extinction of a species of animal or plant is the death of all its' remaining living members. This applies to plants and animals.
Indigenous	People or things than belong to the country in which they are found.
Temperate	A region that has neither extremely hot or extremely cold temperatures. An area usually characterised by mild temperatures.
Understory	The layer of shrubs, young trees, saplings, palms and vines. It is hot and damp here and the air is very still.

Extra Information

Comparison with the UK

The UK is in Europe, in the northern hemisphere, whilst Brazil is in South America and lies mostly in the southern hemisphere.

Due to its position over the Equator, most parts of Brazil are much warmer than the UK.

Brazil is much larger than the UK - 8.51 million km² compared to 243,610km².

Brasilia has a smaller population than London: 2.4 million people compared to 8.4 million.

Brazil is situated on its continent, whereas the United Kingdom is an island country.



Physical Geography

Brazil has a wide variety of landscapes, including rainforests, grasslands, mountains and deserts.

Brazil is the largest country in South America.

The majority of the Amazon Rainforest is in Brazil. Much of the climate is tropical, with the south being relatively temperate.

The equator runs through northern Brazil. Most of the country lies in the Tropic of Capricorn.

60% of the Amazon River is in Brazil. The Amazon is the largest river in the world! The Rio Parana and Negro River are other large rivers in the country.

The highest mountain in Brazil is Pico da Neblina, at 2994m.

Human Geography

Population - The population of Brazil is around 212 million people. Brazil is the 4th most densely populated country in South America. Around 30 million people live in the Amazon rainforest.

Settlements - The capital city, Brasilia has a population of around 2.4 million. However, Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro are much larger and more populous cities.

Economic Activity - The Brazilian Real is the national currency of Brazil. There has always been huge inequalities of wealth in Brazil, however between 2004 and 2013 the economy rapidly developed, lifting 29 million people out of poverty.

Resources/Trade - The top exports of Brazil are soy beans, iron ore, crude petroleum, raw sugar and cars.

Maps and Interesting Images



Books linked to the theme

