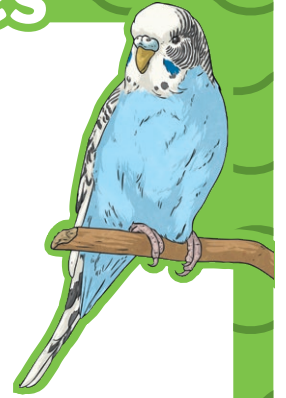


A Trillion Tropical Leaves



The Amazon river's a mighty beast
that meanders and powers and weaves;
its fingers and veins flowing into the heart
of a trillion tropical leaves.

• • • •

It sits in the land of the samba and dance,
South American countries count nine:
There's Brazil and Peru, Colombia too,
then Bolivia waits next in line.

• • • •

The rainforest's huge; the biggest on Earth
with millions of creatures and trees.
Great Britain could fit in there 26 times,
or 42 Englands with ease!

• • • •

There're caimans and sloths, and ocelots too,
piranhas and things that can bite;
tarantulas, crocodiles, spiders and snakes,
and jaguars spotted and bright.

• • • •

And what do we do to this Eden on Earth?
This land of such beauty and awe?

We slash and we burn and we chop it all down,
then we slash and we burn it some more.

• • • •

The Amazon rainforest's crying for help,
ecosystems are naturally linked,
it's dying, it's hurt; shall we chop down some more
until all of Earth's life is extinct?

Questions

1. What is described as a 'mighty beast'? Tick one.

- a jaguar
- the rainforest
- the Amazon river
- South America

2. How many times can Great Britain fit inside the rainforest? Tick one.

- 42
- 24
- 26
- 64

3. Which creatures in the poem are 'spotted and bright'? Tick one.

- tigers
- leopards
- jaguars
- cheetahs

4. Which word from the poem means when something no longer exists? Tick one.

- chop
- slash
- extinct
- crying

5. Give the name of a country in South America that is mentioned in the poem.

6. Fill in the missing word.

And what do we do to this Eden on Earth?

This land of such beauty and _____?

7. What does the author suggest will happen if we keep chopping down the Amazon rainforest?

Answers

1. What is described as a 'mighty beast'? Tick one.

- a jaguar
- the rainforest
- the Amazon river**
- South America

2. How many times can Great Britain fit inside the rainforest? Tick one.

- 42
- 24
- 26**
- 64

3. Which creatures in the poem are 'spotted and bright'? Tick one.

- tigers
- leopards
- jaguars**
- cheetahs

4. Which word from the poem means when something no longer exists? Tick one.

- chop
- slash
- extinct**
- crying

5. Give the name of a country in South America that is mentioned in the poem.

Accept any one of the following: Brazil; Peru; Colombia; Bolivia.

6. Fill in the missing word.

And what do we do to this Eden on Earth?

This land of such beauty and **awe**?

7. What does the author suggest will happen if we keep chopping down the Amazon rainforest?

Pupils' own responses, such as: The author suggests that if we keep chopping down the Amazon rainforest, then ecosystems will disappear and creatures will become extinct.

Questions

1. How many times can England fit inside the rainforest? Tick one.

- 42
 24
 26
 64

2. What is the 'land of the samba and dance'? Tick one.

- the Amazon
 Great Britain
 South America
 Eden

3. Draw **three** lines and match each item with how it is described in the poem.

the Amazon river	spotted and bright
the rainforest	a mighty beast
jaguars	huge

4. Which word is **not** repeated in the poem? Tick one.

- slash
 crying
 burn
 chop

5. Give the names of **two** rainforest creatures that are mentioned in the poem.

- _____
- _____

6. Find and copy a word from the poem that means when something no longer exists.

7. Explain why the Amazon river is described as a 'mighty beast'.

8. Why is the Amazon rainforest 'crying for help'?

Answers

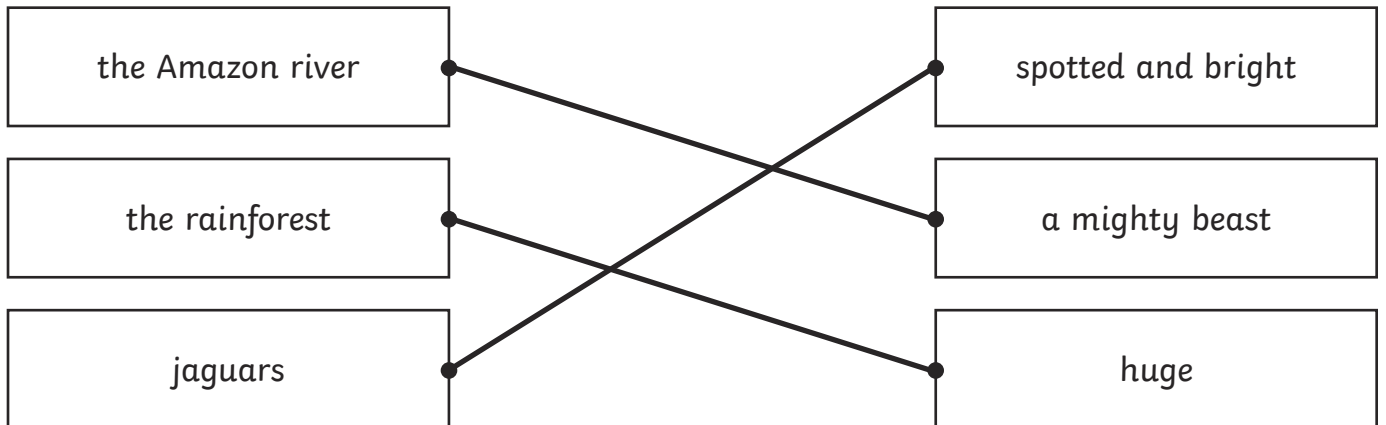
1. How many times can England fit inside the rainforest? Tick one.

- 42
 24
 26
 64

2. What is the 'land of the samba and dance'? Tick one.

- the Amazon
 Great Britain
 South America
 Eden

3. Draw **three** lines and match each item with how it is described in the poem.



4. Which word is **not** repeated in the poem? Tick one.

- slash
 crying
 burn
 chop

5. Give the names of **two** rainforest creatures that are mentioned in the poem.

Accept any two of the following: caimans; sloths; ocelots; piranhas; tarantulas; crocodiles; spiders; snakes; jaguars.

6. Find and copy a word from the poem that means when something no longer exists.

extinct

7. Explain why the Amazon river is described as a 'mighty beast'.

Pupils' own responses, such as: The Amazon river is described as a mighty beast because it is strong, large and very powerful.

8. Why is the Amazon rainforest 'crying for help'?

Pupils' own responses, such as: The Amazon rainforest is crying for help because people are chopping down the trees and destroying many important ecosystems. This is why it is described as 'hurt' and 'dying'.

Questions

1. What is described as a 'mighty beast'? Tick one.

- a jaguar
- the Amazon river
- a tropical leaf
- the rainforest

2. Which words from the poem show that the Amazon river 'bends'? Tick **two**.

- flowing
- weaves
- powers
- meanders

3. How many South American countries are there?

4. Give an example of two words from the poem which are intended to rhyme.

5. Find and copy a phrase from the poem that suggests that the Amazon rainforest is suffering.

6. ... or 42 Englands with ease!

What does 'with ease' mean?

7. Look at verse 4 of the poem, which begins 'There're caimans...'
Why do you think the author included this verse?

8. Why do you think the author repeated the words 'slash', 'burn' and 'chop' within the last two verses of the poem?

Answers

1. What is described as a 'mighty beast'? Tick one.

- a jaguar
- the Amazon river**
- a tropical leaf
- the rainforest

2. Which words from the poem show that the Amazon river 'bends'? Tick **two**.

- flowing
- weaves**
- powers
- meanders**

3. How many South American countries are there?

There are nine South American countries.

4. Give an example of two words from the poem which are intended to rhyme.

Accept any of the following pairs of words: weaves/leaves; nine/line; trees/ease; bite/bright; awe/more; linked/extinct.

5. Find and copy a phrase from the poem that suggests that the Amazon rainforest is suffering.

Accept either of the following: crying for help; it's dying, it's hurt.

6. ... or 42 Englands with ease!

What does 'with ease' mean?

Pupils' own responses, such as: 'With ease' means easily and with room to spare.

7. Look at verse 4 of the poem, which begins 'There're caimans...'

Why do you think the author included this verse?

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think the author included this verse to highlight that the rainforest is home to a variety of different species and that these species are all at risk.

8. Why do you think the author repeated the words 'slash', 'burn' and 'chop' within the last two verses of the poem?

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think the author repeated these words to give the impression that this is happening over and over. It also sounds forceful which gives a dramatic effect to the reader.