

**What's happening
in the news this week?**



Let's have a look at this week's poster!

30th January - 5th February 2023



Does the natural world have rights?



Let's look at this week's story



Brazil's new president has said he aims to reduce deforestation and help protect the Amazon rainforest. In his first speech, Luiz Inácio da Silva (also known as Lula), promised to make climate protection a priority and explained he wanted to reach zero deforestation in the Amazon. Scientists often call the rainforest the 'lungs of the planet', because of the role it plays in absorbing carbon dioxide and producing oxygen, saying that preservation of the Amazon is vital to stopping climate change.



Learn more about this week's story [here](#).
Watch this week's useful video [here](#).
This week's Virtual Picture News [here](#).



How does it make me feel?



sad	angry	happy	confused	excited	worried	shocked	afraid
despondent disconsolate dismal doleful downhearted forlorn gloomy melancholic miserable woeful wretched	aggrieved annoyed discontented disgruntled distressed exasperated frustrated indignant offended outraged resentful vexed	beaming buoyant cheery contented delighted enraptured gleeful glowing joyful	addled baffled bemused bewildered disorientated indistinct muddled mystified perplexed puzzled	animated elevated enlivened enthusiastic exhilarated exuberant thrilled	agitated anxious apprehensive concerned disquieted distraught distressed disturbed fretful perturbed troubled uneasy	astonished astounded disconcerted distressed dumbfounded horrified staggered startled stunned surprised	alarmed apprehensive daunted fearful frantic horrified petrified terrified

This week's story looks at events related to ...





Read through the information about this week's news story.

Who is Brazil's new president?

Luiz Inácio da Silva (known as Lula) is the 39th and current president of Brazil.

Lula said he is committed to helping the Amazon. In his victory speech, he said, 'Let's fight for zero deforestation. The planet needs the Amazon alive. A standing tree is worth more than tons of wood illegally harvested by those who think only of easy profit.'



Above: President Lula of Brazil.

Source: Tribunal Superior Eleitoral under CC-BY



Why does the Amazon rainforest need protecting?

Due to its size and scale, the Amazon rainforest is the most important ecosystem in the world. It absorbs over 40% of our global pollution of carbon dioxide and transforms this into the oxygen we need to breathe. The Amazon also contains an estimated quarter of all animal and plant life on earth.

Left: The Amazon rainforest, Brazil. Source: Anna&Michal

What is happening to the Amazon rainforest?

The Amazon rainforest has so much to offer. The destruction of the forest for profit is a big concern and includes using it to claim resources such as wood, natural oils, land, and fruits.

Large businesses often rely on deforestation methods such as slashing and burning to cut down trees when creating more land to farm animals.

This has a negative impact on the people who live there and the ecosystem.



Share your thoughts on the future of the Amazon rainforest. Do you feel more positive about the future? Do you think there is anything else that can be done?



Look at the resource below, which shares some information about the Amazon rainforest.

The Amazon rainforest is found in South America. It is the world's largest tropical rainforest and spans across nine countries: Brazil, Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, Venezuela, Guyana, Suriname and French Guiana. The majority of it (60%) is in Brazil.

The Amazon rainforest is home to thousands of animal species and millions of different insects!



coati



red-lored parrot



jaguar



giant centipede



turtle



The Amazon River flows through the north of the Amazon rainforest.



There are around 40,000 plant species found in the Amazon rainforest.

People live in the Amazon rainforest. Some have settled more recently; others are part of indigenous groups, who have been living there for thousands of years.



What else would you like to find out about the Amazon rainforest?



Look at the resource below, which shares some more information about indigenous groups living in the Amazon rainforest.

Hundreds of indigenous groups, such as the Yanomami and Kayapo, have been living in the Amazon rainforest for thousands of years.

It rains a lot in the Amazon rainforest. There are two seasons: the dry season and the wet season. 60% of the rainfall happens during the wet season. During the wet season, the average temperature is 30°C and the dry season the average temperature is 37°C.



Some groups live by the Amazon River. They hunt for fish and birds and harvest wild rice and crops (beans, pepper, coca, bananas).



Aerial view of part of the Amazon rainforest.

The Kayapo people use shifting cultivation in parts of the Amazon rainforest not prone to flood. Land is farmed for a few years before they move to a new area. New farmland is cleared (using cutting and burning) and the old farm is allowed to rest and replenish itself. Crops grown include sweet potatoes, yams and papaya.

It is believed there are groups of people living in the Amazon rainforest, who have never had contact with the outside world. It is thought they live in harmony with the forest, using its resources for food and shelter.



Pictured: Sweet potato



Pictured above: Images of indigenous peoples living in the Amazon rainforest.

How does life in the Amazon rainforest compare with yours?



Does the natural world have rights?



Reflection



We are just one of many living things sharing our planet.
It is important for us to do all we can to protect
the natural world, as it cannot always protect itself.





Rule of Law

Rules and laws can be put in place to help protect the natural world. We are all responsible for these rules and laws.

Protected Characteristics



Luiz Inácio da Silva is Brazilian. This is his nationality. People around the world can unite to reduce the deforestation of the Amazon rainforest. Our nationality must never stop us doing something.





UN Rights of a Child



We have the right to share what we have learned about the deforestation of the Amazon rainforest. We can also share what we think and feel about it unless it harms other people.



Useful vocabulary



Absorbing

Taking something in gradually.

Scientists often call the rainforest the 'lungs of the planet', because of the role it plays in **absorbing** carbon dioxide and producing oxygen.

Deforested

Cut down or destroy all the trees in an area.

It shows cattle grazing on land **deforested** by cattle farmers in the Amazon rainforest, Brazil.

Habitat

The natural environment in which a plant or animal lives.

Thinking about where you live, are there any natural **habitats** nearby?

Preservation

To maintain something as it is, especially in order to prevent it from being damaged or destroyed.

...saying that **preservation** of the Amazon is vital to stopping climate change.

Priority

The most important thing that must be dealt with first.

In his first speech, Luiz Inácio da Silva (also known as Lula), promised to make climate protection a **priority**.

Vital

Necessary or very important.

...saying that preservation of the Amazon is **vital** to stopping climate change.

Can you use them in your writing this week?

Picture News



Does the natural world have rights?

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- Look at this week's poster image. Does anyone know where it could be? It shows cattle grazing on land deforested by cattle farmers in the Amazon rainforest, Brazil.
- What do we mean by deforestation? Talk about some reasons why deforestation happens (for farming, to get wood for fuel or construction) and the impact this has (leading to a loss of habitat for people and animals, heavy rainfall causing flooding and on a global scale, loss of rainforests contributing to global warming).
- Watch this week's useful video, which explores the protests in Brazil. Share your thoughts on Brazil's new leader, Lula. Do you think he will make a good leader?
- Read through the information about this week's news story found on the assembly resource. Share your thoughts on the future of the Amazon rainforest. Do you feel more positive about the future? Do you think there is anything else that can be done?
- Thinking about where you live, are there any natural habitats nearby? If not, consider the closest. Is it protected or looked after? Who do you think is responsible for protecting the natural world?

Reflection

We are just one of many living things sharing our planet. It is important for us to do all we can to protect the natural world, as it cannot always protect itself.

Picture News



KS1 focus

What do you know about the Amazon rainforest?



- Write 'Amazon rainforest' on the board. Have you heard of the Amazon rainforest? Do you know anything about it? What do you think a rainforest is?
- A rainforest is an area with tall trees and large amounts of rainfall. The Amazon rainforest is a tropical rainforest because it is located near the equator, where it is warm. Look at a world map (slide 3 of this week's PowerPoint) or a globe and locate the equator. Find South America. This is where the Amazon rainforest is.
- Look at resource 1, which shares some more information about the Amazon rainforest. Is there anything that surprises you? What else would you like to find out about the Amazon rainforest? Record a list of questions you have.
- Think about any areas of trees near you such as a wood or a forest. Can you describe the trees? What animals live there? How do you think it is similar to and different from the Amazon rainforest?
- The Amazon rainforest covers a huge area. The whole of the UK and Ireland could fit into the Amazon rainforest 17 times! Discuss how large you think this is.
- Due to the vastness of the Amazon rainforest, there are parts of it that are unexplored. Can you imagine exploring a part of the world that nobody has ever been to before? Would you like to? Have you ever been somewhere remote (a place far away from towns or cities) before?

Reflection

The Amazon rainforest is the largest rainforest in the world and is home to a range of plant and animal species. As humans, we can help look after and protect woods and forests.

Picture News



KS2 focus

What might life be like for indigenous groups living in the Amazon rainforest?



- Share anything you know about the Amazon rainforest. Can you locate it on a world map? Which countries does it span? Can you name any animals that live there?
- The Amazon rainforest is not only home to thousands of plant and animal species, but many people live there too. Who do you think might live there? What do you think it might be like to live in the Amazon rainforest?
- Some of the people living in the Amazon rainforest are indigenous groups. Look at resource 2, which shares more information about indigenous groups living in the Amazon rainforest. How does life in the Amazon rainforest compare with yours? Think about temperature, weather, food etc.
- Look at the images captured of different indigenous people. What do you think these tell us about their lives? Do you think these people all live in the same way?
- Although little is known about the indigenous groups who have no contact with the outside world, it is assumed they do not have access to electricity or technology such as phones, TVs, computers. How would your life be different without these things?
- There are also cities of people who live in the Amazon rainforest. Manaus is the Amazon's largest city, with an estimated population of over 2.5 million people. Does this surprise you? What do you think life might be like for people living in this city? Can you find out?

Reflection

The world is full of diversity! Some people may live their lives in a similar way to us; others live it differently. Learning about other people can help us be more inclusive and understanding.



KS2 follow-up ideas

Option 1

Amazon rainforest maths.

- The canopy of the rainforest is so thick it can take rain about 10 minutes to reach the ground. What time was it 10 minutes ago? What time will it be in 10 minutes? How many seconds are in 10 minutes?
- The Amazon rainforest absorbs over 40% of our global pollution of carbon dioxide. Can you record this as a fraction and decimal fraction?
- The Amazon contains an estimated quarter of all animal and plant life on earth. Record this as a fraction, decimal fraction and percentage. What is a quarter of the number of children in your class?
- During the wet season, the average temperature is 30°C and in the dry season, the average temperature is 37°C. How does this compare with average temperatures where you live?
- Can you create your own Amazon rainforest maths question using a statistic you find?

Option 2

Think about some natural habitats that are closest to where you live.

- Do you have any areas in school to encourage nature such as a wild garden?
 - Do you know where the nearest park is?
 - Do you know where the nearest woodland is?
 - Are there any nature reserves or protected areas?
- Discuss some of the plants and animals you may find living in these natural habitats.
- How important do you think these natural habitats are?
 - Do you think they should be protected?
 - What could you do to ensure they are protected?

You could use this opportunity to raise awareness (a poster, a letter, your school social media) of some of your natural habitats and encourage everyone in your area to be responsible for them.



KS1 follow-up ideas

Option 1

Find out about an animal that lives in the Amazon rainforest. Think about:

- What is it called?
- What does it look like?
- What size is it?
- What does it eat?

Use this information to create a fact file or draw/paint a picture of your Amazon rainforest animal.

Option 2

It rains a lot in the Amazon rainforest!

- Do you like the sound of the rain?
- What words could you use to describe the rain when it is falling heavily/lightly?
- What does it sound like when it hits the windows or rooftop?
- Have you ever been under an umbrella, in a bus shelter or in a tent when it was raining? What did it sound like?

Use this opportunity to create a piece of rain music! You could use parts of your body (rub hands, click fingers, tap knees, stamp feet) or percussion instruments. Think about:

- Can you vary how soft or loud your piece is?
- Can you vary how fast or slow it is?
- Can you include a crescendo (gradually getting louder) and a diminuendo (gradually getting softer)?



This week's useful websites

This week's news story

www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/64186648

This week's useful video

Protests in Brazil

www.youtube.com/watch?v=iKyFWSIRSGo

This week's Virtual Picture News

www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss

This week's vocabulary

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Singing bus driver



Pictured: Bus Driver || Ranjit Singh Veer || Tez Records || Music D Gill | Source: YouTube

A talented bus driver has become an accidental YouTube sensation after recording a video to show his family in India what he does for work. Ranjit Singh, who works at National Express West Midlands, recorded a four minute upbeat music video in Punjabi, with English subtitles. The lyrics explain how proud he is of his profession and the respect that he has for his colleagues, some of whom joined him in the video. The heart-warming

song states, 'Friends drive buses together. With honest working hands, we drive the buses. From different countries brothers drive buses together...' David Bradford, managing director for National Express West Midlands, said, 'Our staff really are our greatest assets. They all work incredibly hard to keep our customers moving, and to see the enthusiasm that they have for their roles in the company is great.'

Ham-dini the duck

A duck called Ham, who lives in Chorley, has gone missing so many times that his owner has nicknamed him Ham-dini, after Harry Houdini, the famous Hungarian-American escape artist. The four-and-a-half-year old Indian Runner duck, who was adopted at 1-week old by Charlotte Taylor-Dugdale, loves to escape from his garden and go for a wander around the local area. Neighbours now keep a look out for him and comment on their local Facebook page when they make a new sighting of his adventures. Ham is easy to spot as he often wears scarves, made for him by Charlotte's mother! Charlotte says, 'He loves people and children. He also follows people to school, gets into their houses and goes to the local nursery. I call him Ham-dini. He is cheeky and sulks but also very loving and loyal. He chases bin lorries down the street, cats and dogs and he even tackles foxes.' After his escapades, he returns home for a salad and a cup of tea!



Pictured: Ham the duck
 Source: Charlotte Taylor-Dugdale Facebook

Vast canyon of books



Pictured: Wuhan Library design images
Source: MVRDV Twitter page

Dutch architecture firm, MVRDV, has revealed its competition-winning design for the new Wuhan Central Library, which, when completed, will be among China's largest libraries! The stunning design for the new library is described as a 'Vast Canyon of Books'. It takes inspiration from its location, where two rivers, Yangtze and Han, meet. The two waterways are pulled into a central channel, replicated in the design of the building as visitors move through the 140,000-square-metre

venture. It will be as if they are contained in a monumental canyon, with sedimentary layers replaced by shelves of books. MVRDV discuss the project on its website, saying it, 'combines traditional and non-traditional functions with diverse study, living room, reading, and studio spaces. The building connects to its surroundings via three large openings that will act as visual displays of life inside the building, sparking curiosity and intrigue.'

Last week's topic:

Do we throw things away too easily?

Yes, we all throw things away but don't always do it responsibly. I am careful with what I buy but we all throw things away without needing to.
Callum



My parents always try to fix things and see if someone else wants to buy it online.
Keith


I recycle and I am careful with what I buy.
Evelyn

Packaging has so much rubbish, it's hard to not throw it away.
AI

Let us know what you think about this week's news?

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Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others

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TAKEHOME



Does the natural world have rights?

In the news this week

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Things to talk about at home ...

- Share what you know about the Amazon rainforest with others at home and talk with others about what they know.
- Do you believe enough is being done to protect the Amazon rainforest? Do you think the natural habitats close to where you live are protected?
- Whose responsibility do you consider it is to protect natural habitats?

Please note any interesting thoughts or comments

Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others

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