

Year 3 Afternoon Learning -

Week beginning Monday 1st February 2021

This is your themed learning for Geography:

Rainforests & Fair Trade

Read this information!

Underline any new words that you meet and use a dictionary to find out their meaning.



Living in the Rainforest

Most native Amazonians today live in protected areas of the forest known as indigenous lands. Some tribes have adapted to living near the modern world, meeting tourists, buying and selling things at local markets, and using western clothing and cooking utensils. Others tribes are completely shut off from the modern world - these are known as 'uncontacted tribes.' Each tribe has its own language and culture, including dance, crafts, songs and medicines.

Tribal peoples' houses are generally large round buildings made from wood, bamboo and straw. Sometimes up to 400 people will live in these buildings. Each family has their own fire within the building and hammocks are strung up around it. In the centre there is an area that is used for feasts and displays. Tribes normally make decisions together, holding huge discussions where everyone is allowed to give their opinion.

Children are taught from a young age how to farm and how to hunt. Capybaras, tapirs, crocodiles, monkeys, deer, fish and turtles are hunted with blowguns, poison-tipped arrows, spears, traps and more recently guns (if they can be afforded).

For thousands of years, indigenous people have been experts on how to live sustainably with the wild, and they manage the biodiversity of the forest with skill and care. However, as the habitats surrounding their homes are destroyed, many Amazonian people have had to change their way of life. They can no longer be nomadic and travel the land, instead they have to keep farming the same smaller areas of land and the soil does not have a chance to recover.

Clothing varies from tribe to tribe - the uncontacted tribes are often naked, while the tribes that engage with the modern world either wear loincloths, straw skirts, or sometimes even western clothing. Tribal face paint is worn either to scare away enemies, for camouflage, or sometimes for religious reasons.

Native Amazonian Beliefs

Spirituality is a large part of Amazon culture and tribal people see the rainforest as the home of spiritual life. Each flower, plant and animal has its own spirit and when tribal people farm and hunt plants and animals, they do it with deep respect for the spirit of the rainforest and for all the plants and animals within it.



Uncontacted Tribes

There are still some uncontacted tribes living deep in the rainforest that do not have any contact with the modern world. South American governments have created 'no contact' laws so that these tribes are left alone. There is very little known about the uncontacted tribes. We don't know what language they speak, how many there are, or how they live their lives. Brazil could have as many as 70 uncontacted tribes living within the Amazon. The threat of infecting the uncontacted tribes to contagions such as measles or flu is a huge worry. Epidemics have had terrible effects on native populations in the past.

One isolated tribe were filmed secretly from the air, for over 20 years. The tribe grew vegetables, including pumpkin, bananas, manioc and maize, and ate meat from animals that they hunted in the forest. They decorated their bodies with red paint and the men wore their hair long, except on their foreheads, which seemed to be shaved.

What can we learn from Native Amazonians?

These tribes have learned how to live off the land and survive in the rainforest, without damaging or destroying it. For thousands of years, they have protected one of the most biodiverse lands in the world - the 'lungs of the world' - to the benefit of us all.

What threats do they face?

Amazon's native cultures are threatened by the spread of mining, logging and cattle ranching across the land. There are also threats from the oil industry, which clears large areas of forest to access the oil and often fails to clean up again afterwards, leaving the land polluted and waterways poisoned.



Imagine that you are a member of an Amazonian tribe.

Write a diary entry for one day to describe and explain your daily life.

Remember to write about about...

- **your home and your possessions**
- **what you do or learn**
- **who or what you meet**
- **your favourite part of the day**

