



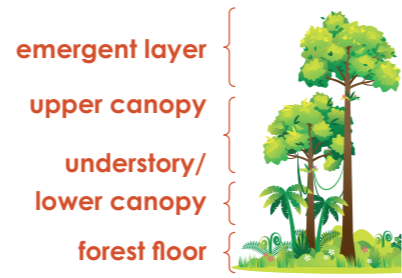
Where is the Amazon?

Both the Amazon River and the Amazon Rainforest are located in South America. South America is one of the 7 continents of the world and is located in the Southern Hemisphere. On the image below you can see the continent which has the Andes mountain range running down the western side. The Amazon Rainforest can be seen in the north of the continent, it is the dark green colour you can see across the top. The Amazon River is can be seen flowing through the rainforest, also in the north of the continent, moving from west to east.



What does the Amazon Rainforest look like?

The Amazon, like other rainforests, has different layers: the forest floor at the bottom; the understory layer above; the canopy layer; the emergent layer at the very top. Each layer is home to different plants and animals and because of the huge number of trees and their leaves, different amounts of sunlight reach each of them.

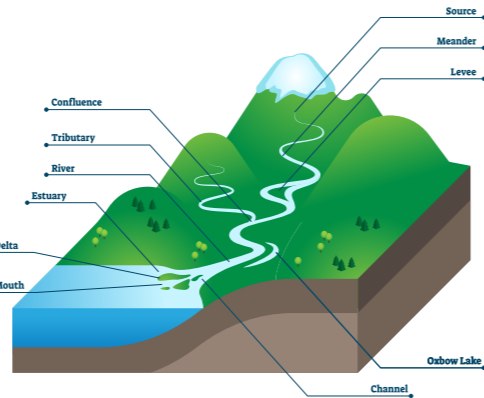


What are the features of a river?

The water in a river comes from rainfall, snow, melting ice and from water inside the Earth. Each river has a source, usually found in mountainous areas, where different streams flow downhill and join together to form a river. A small stream or smaller river which flows into the main river is called a tributary. This is the upper course of the river.

The river has a middle course, where the channel of the river is wider and it flows across land and through valleys. The river here meanders because the flow of the river causes erosion of the land. Sometimes meanders form oxbow lakes which are cut off from the river.

The lower course of the river flows much more slowly as it reaches the sea. It widens out into a broad estuary or delta and where it meets the sea is known as the mouth.



What is it like in the Amazon Rainforest?

The Amazon Rainforest is the largest tropical rainforest in the world and it is responsible for producing 40% of the oxygen in the world. A tropical rainforest experiences a large amount of rainfall and has a very warm and humid climate for most of the year. It also has many, many tall trees and a huge number of different plant and wildlife species. The rainforest is located mostly in Brazil but also in parts of Peru, Equador and Bolivia. There are only a small number of cities found in the rainforest and many tribes live there.

Glossary

1	<b>South America</b>	one of the 7 world continents — found in the Southern Hemisphere
2	<b>Amazonia</b>	the area within the Amazon Rainforest and around the Amazon River
3	<b>climate</b>	the general weather conditions in an area over a long period of time
4	<b>rainfall</b>	how much rain falls in an area
5	<b>rainforest</b>	a dense forest found in tropical areas with high levels of rainfall
6	<b>river</b>	a natural stream of water which flows in a channel to the sea or a lake
7	<b>oxygen</b>	a colourless gas that we breathe and need for life
8	<b>forest floor</b>	the bottom layer of the rainforest which receives small amounts of light
9	<b>understory layer</b>	the layer found above the forest floor and under the main canopy
10	<b>canopy layer</b>	the layer above the understory and below the emergent layer
11	<b>emergent layer</b>	the highest layer of the rainforest, found above the canopy
12	<b>indigenous</b>	meaning something is naturally from that place
13	<b>tribe</b>	a group of people who live in a traditional way
14	<b>tributary</b>	a smaller stream or river which feeds into a larger river
15	<b>confluence</b>	the point where two rivers (of near equal size) meet and join
16	<b>meander</b>	the winding curve or bend of a river
17	<b>estuary</b>	the mouth of a river — where it meets the sea
18	<b>erosion</b>	the process of being worn away by water or wind
19	<b>deposition</b>	the process of depositing something — leaving it behind
20	<b>deforestation</b>	the cutting down of a large area of trees by humans

Who lives in the Amazon?

The Amazon is home to many plants and animals but also people. There are a small number of towns and cities — Manaus is the most major city in the rainforest and is known as 'the heart of the Amazon'. The rainforest is also home to a large number of indigenous tribes who still follow a traditional way of life — the largest is the Yanomami.

Amazingly however, some tribes have never been contacted and we know very little about them and the way they live.



What is the Amazon River?

The Amazon River is the second longest river in the world but carries the largest volume of water to the sea. The source of the river is located in Peru, in the Andes mountains — there are three smaller rivers which come together to create the Amazon. The Amazon has a large number of tributaries which spread through the rainforest but the main course of the river runs through Peru and Brazil. The mouth of the river is in the east of the continent and feeds into the Atlantic Ocean.

Significant Places

<b>Andes</b>	<b>Amazon Rainforest</b>	<b>Amazon River</b>	<b>Brazil</b>
A mountain range which runs along the western side of South America. The second highest peak is found here as well as the three sources of the Amazon River.	The largest tropical rainforest in the world, producing important oxygen that humans across the world need to breathe. The majority is located in Brazil and one in ten known species of animal lives there.	The second longest river in the world (after the Nile) but the largest in terms of the water it carries to the sea. The river flows through the rainforest and has many different tributaries.	The largest country in South America and where most of the Amazon Rainforest is found. The capital city of Brazil is Brasilia and the main language is Portuguese.

Significant Places

<b>Manaus</b>	<b>Peru</b>	<b>Madidi National Park</b>	<b>Manu National Park</b>
A city located in the centre of the Amazon Rainforest and known as 'Heart of the Amazon' and 'City of the Forest'. The National Institute of Amazonia Research is found here.	A country found to the east of Brazil. Parts of the Andes, Amazon Rainforest and Amazon River are found here. The capital city of Peru is Lima and the main language is Spanish.	A national park found in Bolivia which is part of one of the largest protected areas in the world. There are more than 1,000 bird, 12,000 plant and 2,000 vertebrate species here.	A national park found in Peru. It has a restricted zone for native people and researchers, a cultural zone for human settlement and a recuperation zone for rainforest life recovery.