

Threats to the tropical rainforest - deforestation

The tropical rainforests of the Amazon Basin face the threat of deforestation. Deforestation is happening due to the following reasons:

Farming - large areas are cleared for pastoral farming. As the global demand for meat has increased many cattle farms have opened in the Amazon Basin for beef farming. Arable farming is also responsible for the loss of tropical rainforest as many farmers are clearing land to grow cash crops, such as soya beans.

Logging - tropical rainforests are cut down so that valuable trees like mahogany can be accessed and sold for timber to make furniture. Other trees are cut down for making paper products.

Mining - the Amazon Basin is rich in natural resources such as iron ore, copper, tin, aluminium, manganese and gold. This has led to the development of mines which results in the clearance of tropical rainforest. The Carajas mine in Brazil is the world's largest iron ore mine.

Roads - the construction of access roads for farmers, loggers and miners results in large parts of the tropical rainforest being destroyed.

Population - population growth has resulted in the loss of tropical rainforest as land is cleared to build houses and infrastructure.

Now you need to make notes about each one of these causes and try to put the information into your own words.

For example:

Farming - built all over the rainforest, needed for animals/crops, takes land from tribes and other animals, biggest problem.

Mining - mining gets materials, damages rainforest.

By the end of this activity you should have read through the text and drawn out the key information. You should have then explained in your own words how these causes are effecting he rainforests of the world.

Please now watch the following video and read the extra information. Whilst you are doing this you need to locate any additional information that you think will add to your explanation.

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/global-warming/deforestation/>

<https://kids.kiddle.co/Deforestation>

<https://www.conservation.org/stories/11-deforestation-facts-you-need-to-know>