Year 6 Geography – The Amazon Rainforest Part 2

What we already know:
North and South America are two separate continents. The two continents combined reach from the Arctic to almost the Antarctic. They have a border between Panama and Colombia.
Know that there is a fault line running down the west side of both continents
Know there is a chain of mountains running from Alaska to Chile - known as the American Cordillera

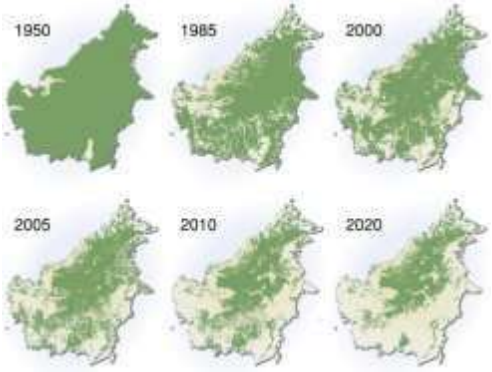
What's next? Pupils should consolidate and extend their knowledge of the world's major countries and their physical and human features. They should understand how geographical processes interact to create distinctive human and physical landscapes that change over time.

Locational Knowledge

- The Amazon Rainforest covers land in six countries in South America.
- The largest part is in Brazil.
- (6th largest country in the world)
- The Amazon Rainforest is tropical with high temperatures all year. The climate and the nature of the forest means that there are very high levels of rainfall.
- The Amazon River is the second longest in the world. Its source is in the Andes but it has many tributaries and is home to many diverse species.

Human Geography

- Much of the country is rural and farming is a major industry but there are large cities.
- The government tackle poverty and overcrowding in the cities by relocating people to rural areas and lands to farm
- Brazil exports large amounts of food and crops (particularly meat). Trans-American Highway was built) to increase trade – one of the impacts of the road has been to increase deforestation.
- Many people in Brazil believe that more of the forest should be cut down to enable more farming so that more people can earn a decent living.
- There is very little tourism to the Amazon Rainforest as it is too hard/costly to access
- Educational tourism is increasing.



Physical Geography

- Deforestation is causing changes to the pattern of rainfall that means that there is a risk of some areas of the forest drying out while increasing the risk of flooding in other parts.
- 20% of the world's oxygen is generated by the Amazon rainforest.
- There are four layers to the Rainforest (emergent, canopy, understory and forest floor) – the conditions in each layer are very different and together they form a rich habitat for different organisms 50% of species are found only in Rainforests. Deforestation is increasing the chances that many of these species will become extinct.

Sustainability

- Large amounts of the Rainforest are being lost every year (17% in the last 50 years with the rate increasing) – this is known as deforestation. Farming is the biggest cause of this with by far the biggest proportion going on pasture to graze cattle and other animals
- Many Amazonians have already lost their homelands and no longer live in the forest and others feel that they are driven out of the forest.
- The UK cannot grow enough food to feed all the animals that are part of our diet. UK imports a large amount of its food (both to eat and to feed farm animals in UK). A large proportion comes from the Amazon region, particularly meat and soya.

Vocab

Tier One

South America, city, country, climate

Tier Two

continent, physical geography, climate, industrial, residential, species diversity, land use, population/ populous human, trade geography, poverty features, export, deforestation, leisure, diverse, biome bio-

Tier Three

tributaries, itinerary, retail, vaccinations