



Name: _____

Date: _____

Amazon - Lesson 1

tribes
recognize
archeologists

flowing
Greek
Amazonia

diverse
sustained
ground

melting
oxygen
rainforest

attacked
massive
seasons

Spanish explorer Francisco de Orellana has been credited with giving the Amazon its name. He was said to be _____ by female warriors of the Tapuyas tribe while exploring the jungle. He compared these women to the Amazon women warriors of _____ mythology.

The Amazon, also known as _____, is the biggest rainforest in the world. It covers 5.5 million square kilometers and spans across 9 South American countries. The Amazon is the most biologically _____ place on Earth. It has about 30 million different species living in the Amazon river basin. Every year scientists discover and classify thousands more. There are 2.5 million insect species, 40 thousand plant species, 1300 bird species, 430 mammals, 3000 types of fish, 2500 butterflies, and 378 different types of reptiles.

The Amazon rainforest is _____ by the Amazon River, which is the largest river by volume in the world. It is also the second-longest river in the world. It contains 20% of all the river water in the world. It has about 15,000 tributary rivers _____ into it from 9 different South American countries. The primary source of water comes from _____ snow in the Andes mountains, but it also gets about 2.75 m (9 ft.) of rain annually. The Atlantic Ocean receives about 55 million gallons of water from the Amazon every second! This is about 20% of the global river discharge into the oceans. The Amazon river used to flow east to west but changed to flow west to east after the Andes mountains rose up.

The Amazon is a tropical _____ and a very hot place. The hot summer months soar to a

sweltering 37° C (100° F) in the dryer season. The fall and rainy _____ are around 31° C (88° F).

The Amazon Rainforest produces about 3000 different fruits, but we would only _____ about 200 of them. It has so much vegetation that it produces about 16% of the Earth's _____ and is nicknamed "The Lungs of the Earth." The plant growth is so thick that only 1% of sunlight filters down to the _____ in most places of the forest. About 25% of western medicine is derived from plants in the Amazon Rainforest. But scientists have only studied about 5% of the known plant species in the Amazon so far.

The Amazon is home to about 21 million people. There are an estimated 50 remote _____. These are tribes of people that have not yet made contact with modern civilization. Little is known about the people who lived in the Amazon before Spanish exploration in the 1500s. It was thought that most of the forest was uninhabited, but recent studies using satellite images and new laser technology that can map the surface of the earth under all the vegetation show that millions of people may have lived in _____ settlements across the Amazon. Hundreds of new sites have been uncovered by _____ revealing massive pyramids and other structures built by ancient people. They now believe there are hundreds more to be discovered.