

Geography Plus: Amazon Adventures

Activity sheet 15:

Cutting down the rainforest: briefing notes for the presentation

Name _____

- Brazil nuts, which are unique to the Amazon rainforest, could support local communities financially: they offer an alternative to clearing the forest for cattle ranching or growing soya.
- Burning the forest to clear the land eventually kills the Brazil nut trees and once they have gone new trees take at least 15 years to grow.
- Clearing the rainforest does not make particularly good or rich grazing land but there is plenty of land so many cattle can be grazed.
- Rearing cattle needs fewer workers than crop growing so it is more profitable.
- Soybeans planted on the cleared land can be processed for many uses, such as poultry feed to supply chicken meat for fast food outlets in Europe.
- Brazil nut trees take years to grow and will not grow in plantations – this is a waste of the land.
- Deforestation reduces the biodiversity of the rainforest and may also influence climate change.
- The population of Brazil, as well as the rest of the world, is growing and more food production is needed.
- The rainforest is an important tourist attraction and many people visit it each year.