

Forest Under Pressure

Trace the causes, effects, and possible responses to deforestation in Brazil.

SS6G2.b "Explain the environmental issue of destruction of the rain forest in Brazil."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each cause of deforestation, circle each environmental effect, and number each action that can reduce forest loss. Your marks will help you trace how clearing the rainforest affects people and nature.

Brazil's Rainforest Challenge

- ① Brazil contains much of the Amazon rainforest, a vast forest that helps shape life far beyond its trees. When forests are cleared, often for cattle pasture, crop fields, logging, roads, or mining, the change is called deforestation. Some clearing supports jobs and products, but rapid, large-scale clearing creates environmental problems. Trees store carbon, shelter many living things, and help move water from the land into the air. Losing many trees weakens these services for people and nature.
- ② One major result is habitat loss. Jaguars, frogs, insects, and plants can lose the places where they feed, nest, and reproduce. Forest clearing also changes the water cycle. Trees release water vapor through their leaves. This moisture helps form clouds and rain. When fewer trees remain, some areas may become hotter and drier. Fires used to clear land can send smoke and carbon dioxide into the air. Carbon dioxide traps heat in Earth's atmosphere, adding to climate change.
- ③ People in Brazil and around the world are working to reduce deforestation. Protected areas and Indigenous territories can protect forests when land rights are respected. Government agencies can enforce laws against illegal clearing, while satellite images can help locate new forest loss. Farmers can also raise production on land that is already cleared instead of cutting more forest. These actions matter because protecting the rainforest supports biodiversity, rainfall patterns, and a more stable climate for many regions.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What are two human activities that can cause deforestation in Brazil?

2 How can cutting down trees affect rainfall?

3 Explain two environmental effects of deforestation described in the passage.

4 Name two actions that can reduce deforestation. How does one of them help?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write three sentences explaining a possible rainforest-clearing situation in Brazil. Include one cause of clearing, two connected environmental effects, and one action that could reduce further forest loss.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each cause of deforestation, circle each environmental effect, and number each action that can reduce forest loss. Your marks will help you trace how clearing the rainforest affects people and nature. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What are two human activities that can cause deforestation in Brazil?	Any two: clearing land for cattle pasture, crop fields, logging, roads, or mining.
2	How can cutting down trees affect rainfall?	Trees release water vapor that helps form clouds and rain. With fewer trees, some areas may become hotter and drier.
3	Explain two environmental effects of deforestation described in the passage.	Possible effects include habitat loss, fewer places for species to feed or reproduce, changes to the water cycle, hotter and drier conditions, smoke pollution, and added carbon dioxide that contributes to climate change.
4	Name two actions that can reduce deforestation. How does one of them help?	Possible actions include protected areas, respecting Indigenous land rights, enforcing laws against illegal clearing, using satellite images to find forest loss, and farming on already-cleared land. Any accurate explanation of how one action protects forest is acceptable.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

If a company clears rainforest for cattle pasture, animals may lose habitat, and fewer trees may mean less water vapor for clouds and rain. Fires can add carbon dioxide to the air. The company could use already-cleared land instead and avoid cutting more forest.

Accept equivalent causes, effects, and solutions that are supported by the passage. For the open response, look for a clear cause-and-effect explanation plus a realistic action to reduce deforestation.