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## The Mysterious Jungle

The Amazon rainforest is the world's largest rainforest containing roughly 10 million species of animals, plants, and insects. But since the late 1960's a severe increase of deforestation in the Amazon has caused a tremendous effect on its ecosystem and the native people of Brazil. The animals depend on those trees to survive and build homes out destroying these can have a long term butterfly effect for future generations of these animals.

Brazil, holding the fifth largest population in the world reaching roughly 207,000,000 having known for their beautiful beaches and their wonderful cities such as Rio De Janeiro. Millions of people travel down there every year to get a sense of Brazil's wonderful history and culture while getting to see the world's largest rainforest. The Amazon rainforest known for holding 10 million different types of living organisms has been growing closer and closer to not being habitable for numerous species. These plants, animals, and insects all rely on these trees to provide for them food, water and a home to live while keeping them safe in. Since they started cutting down trees of the Amazon in the late 1960's 20% of the whole rainforest has been cleared (Schwartzman). 20% may seem like a small number for such a vast rainforest but that 20% is growing substantially with more than 20,000 square miles a year are being cut down (Butler). At this rate we will lose the whole rain forest in as little as 100 years.

Some people will argue that there are benefits for the destruction of the forests in Brazil. Their arguments for it is that it makes the land available for housing, to harvest timber for things such as paper and homes, and to create room for cattle ranching. But really majority of the trees cut down are done illegally. They were able to fund this illegal deforestation by drug trafficking, government corruption, and truck hijacking. Deforestation is the perfect way for people to launder their money and not get caught. One of the big reasons for this were so they can acquire

things such as fuel while also to mine for diamonds and gold. They are able to keep their money safe while still creating more money from the resources they were getting. This is all leaving a much larger impact on the ecosystem than what some people realize. For starters they are forcing the indigenous people such as the Uru-eu-wau-wau people leave what has been their homes for centuries. This is very similar to what the Americans did to the Native Americans and we can all see how not too long after we forced them out of their homes we realized how horrible that was. The Uru-eu-wau-wau people are reliant on the forest to survive and don't know any other way of living besides living off of what the Amazon has to offer. But the people are not the only ones affected by the large deforestation to the Amazon.

Every day more and more trees are being chopped down causing more and more ecosystems to be destroyed. Destroying these ecosystems can have a long term effect on the animals or insects that live there that could end up causing the extinction of a species. Roughly 2,600 of the species that live in the Amazon are now endangered due to deforestation (Endangered Animals). This is due to the loss of homes for several different species of animals causing them to be prey species making them easily picked off by the other animals that are hunting them. These trees are not only used for homes but they are also hold more than half of the water in the ecosystem (Bradford). The trees are the ones absorbing all of the rain fall and releasing it back into the air as water vapor while also being one of the key parts of lessening pollution in the water around them. This water is the largest producer for water in places such as Sao Paulo which is the largest populated city in Brazil. This could have major effects on the people in Brazil because this could lead to things such as drought causing a lot of people to have to struggle to get something as simple as fresh water.

One of if not the largest reasons for deforestation is for the creation of land for cattle ranching. Brazil is now being recognized as the world's largest exporter of beef and live cattle. In around 2015-2016 the country of Brazil opened its beef markets up to America, China, and Russia. This is huge because these are 3 of the largest countries in the world. Opening up the market of Brazilian beef to China is worrisome being that in the eyes of the producers in Brazil the potential scale of selling to the Chinese market is practically infinite. Along with this Brazil is China's largest supplier of leather bringing in roughly \$1.9 billion since 2008. Which compared

to the \$5.1 billion they have received for beef is a substantial amount. For starters they should use some of that money that have been able to bring in for figuring out how to use the land that they already have for cattle ranching more efficiently instead of having to cut down more trees and take up more land. It would be smart of them to figure out a way to still be able to sell cattle to other countries while still providing for their own and keeping the leather revenue coming in from China. The “cattle agreement” that came around in 2009 is a start. It was created to try and limit deforestation for the reason of creating land for cattle. It also was mainly there to create some rules on exporting the beef to other countries. But there are still some majors problems with this agreement. It has made it easier for people to launder cows and that is something that is in need of being stopped.

People are overworking the land that they raise their cattle so they feel the need to cut more trees down and use new land when actually they don't need too. They could start by creating a plan on how to use the land more effectively and efficiently. They should create a rotation on moving there cattle from area to area so they're not overworking the aria that they have. Coming up with a great rotational grazing system would really come to help in the long run. It will maintain the land while making sure that you will still be able to have your cattle graze and keep them on a healthy grass fed diet.

One way or another we need to control deforestation in the Amazon. Ending deforestation is one of our only chances to help preserve all of the different species. Knowing there is little to no chance of stopping deforestation in the Amazon we will just have to find reasons to slow it down. One way to do this would be to start using and maximizing the recycled wood and paper we already have. A lot of what gets recycled gets wasted because there is just not enough use for it. Instead of creating new things focus more on finding a way to use those recycled products. The government should invest more money into finding a use for recycled produces because only roughly 9 percent of recycled products actually get recycled (Parker). For something as astronomical as this there should be a lot more focus on finding a solution for such a big problem. For this to be successful there needs to be a limit on how many trees they are allowed to chop down a year. Along with this there needs to be something implemented for every tree they chop down a new one needs to be planted to help make sure that the forest is not completely

eliminated. This would be a difficult task to get done with how many corporations rely on the money from the trees they chop down but there also needs to be a limit since this is causing a detrimental effect on the largest home for all sorts of different species.

Many people will argue that deforestation of the Amazon is actually development. For something to be development it has to be beneficial and increases the well being of humans. But in fact there is not much that is truly benefiting the people. The financial benefits along with the productivity are very minimal which many people don't realize. Along with all this the benefits for the locals of Brazil are even less than anyone else. As time goes on the benefits of deforestation have become smaller and smaller while leaving a larger effect on everyone. There are benefits to deforestation don't get me wrong but they are just so so minimal compared to how astronomical the affects are. There is no easy way to just end deforestation, it would be a slow and long process to get it to stop. But in the end it would all be worth it because soon enough if we keep up with deforestation we will take on some major consequences for cutting down so many of those trees.

The Amazon rainforest is one of the most mystical and mysterious places on earth causing it to be one of the most beautiful places on this earth. This means that it needs to be protected at whatever cost to preserve the animals that live there and keep the people around it safe while maintaining a proper source of income for the government elsewhere. Since it helps produce 20% of the world's oxygen it is vital for our world society to have it around. That's why in conclusion people don't realize how bad the Amazon rainforest needs to be protected and we need to come together as a community around the world to make things right and keep one of the most beautiful places on earth.

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