

## Amazon Rainforest

Extending across seven million square kilometres and nine countries in South America, the Amazon rainforest is the world's largest ecological reserve. It accounts for more than half of the Earth's remaining tropical rainforests and has the richest variety of plants and animals in the world. One out of every 10 known species in the world lives in the Amazon, including bald parrots, blind catfish, giant blue Anaconda pythons up to 10 metres long and weighing up to 250 kilos, pink dolphins, and transparent frogs with skin so thin that you can see their hearts fluttering. The plants are so diverse that it is estimated that one square kilometre contains 225,000 different species.

[www.englishtreasure.asia](http://www.englishtreasure.asia)

It is also home to around 400 tribes, most of which have been in contact with outsiders for centuries, though a small number of tribes remain isolated. According to the WWF, the Amazon rainforest has lost 17% of its area in the past five decades. Due to the conversion of forests into land for cattle raising, deforestation has increased, especially in areas where natural resources, such as gold and oil, have also been discovered.

[youtube.com/EnglishTreasure](https://youtube.com/EnglishTreasure)

How many countries does the Amazon rainforest span?

[www.englishtreasure.asia](http://www.englishtreasure.asia)

How many of the world's species live in the Amazon?

[youtube.com/EnglishTreasure](https://youtube.com/EnglishTreasure)

Why is the rainforest being destroyed?