

Brazil sends security force to fight deforestation

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Brazil has asked its security forces to help fight deforestation in the Amazon. The Brazilian government is worried that a dangerous level of trees is being cut down in the world's largest rainforest. There are fears that

there could be a big increase in deforestation in 2020. The year has already started badly for the trees and our environment. Deforestation in the Amazon doubled in January compared with the same month in 2019. A new report says that many areas of the Amazon produce more CO₂ than oxygen. The reverse is meant to happen. The Amazon is often called "the lungs" of the planet. It plays a vital role in helping the Earth's environment as it changes CO₂ into oxygen.

Brazil's Justice Minister, Sergio Moro, approved the setting up of a special security force to help track down and stop illegal loggers. There was a big increase in the amount of illegal logging in 2019. This happened at the same time as damaging fires that swept across large swathes of the rainforest. The security force will consist of police with special military-style training. They will work with environmental agency officials. Change also needs to come from regional governments. Some governments in the region are selling off land to developers. This is accelerating the pace of deforestation. To make things worse, the regional governments are doing little to replenish the jungle.

Sources: reuters.com / smh.au / foreignaffairs.com

Writing

Illegal deforestation should be made a crime against humanity. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

Brazil / security / Amazon / trees / rainforest / environment / CO₂ / oxygen / lungs / track down / illegal / logging / fires / military / training / deforestation / land / jungle

True / False

- a) Brazil's security force will help fight deforestation in Indonesia. T / F
- b) Deforestation doubled in the Amazon in January compared to last year. T / F
- c) Many areas of the Amazon now produces more CO₂ than oxygen. T / F
- d) The Amazon is often called the earth's lungs. T / F
- e) Brazil's justice minister will track down illegal loggers. T / F
- f) The amount of illegal logging fell in 2019. T / F
- g) Police with military-style training will help to find the illegal loggers. T / F
- h) Regional governments are planting millions and millions of new trees. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. asked | a. establishing |
| 2. worried | b. regions |
| 3. increase | c. speed |
| 4. areas | d. concerned |
| 5. vital | e. engulfed |
| 6. setting up | f. requested |
| 7. track down | g. speeding up |
| 8. swept across | h. important |
| 9. accelerating | i. find |
| 10. pace | j. rise |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you know about the Amazon?
- b) How much do you care about the Amazon rainforest?
- c) Why is there so much deforestation in the Amazon?
- d) What negative effects does deforestation have?
- e) Why do governments allow deforestation?
- f) Do you think the Amazon security force will work?
- g) Why is the Amazon called 'the lungs' of the planet?
- h) What would you do for a week in the Amazon?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|---|------------------------------|
| 1. there could be a big increase in | a. swathes of the rainforest |
| 2. Deforestation in the Amazon | b. Earth's environment |
| 3. many areas of the Amazon produce more | c. to developers |
| 4. The Amazon is often called "the lungs" | d. doubled in January |
| 5. It plays a vital role in helping the | e. stop illegal loggers |
| 6. help track down and | f. CO2 than oxygen |
| 7. fires that swept across large | g. style training |
| 8. police with special military- | h. pace of deforestation |
| 9. selling off land | i. of the planet |
| 10. accelerating the | j. deforestation in 2020 |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- Why is the Amazon rainforest so important?
- What would you like to ask the illegal loggers?
- Can we ever reverse the damage done to the Amazon?
- How will the security forces catch the illegal loggers?
- Why are regional governments selling of Amazon land?
- Should illegal logging be a crime against humanity?
- What questions would you like to ask the security force?

Spelling

- a dangerous leelv
- Deforestation in the Amazon ebdudlo
- cmreaodp with the same month
- produce more CO2 than gexony
- The veserre is meant to happen
- It plays a ltvai role
- poeradpv the setting up
- the amount of gaeilll logging
- The security force will sncsiot of police
- work with environmental gcynae officials
- This is accelerating the paec
- the aiglnero governments

Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. d	3. j	4. b	5. h
6. a	7. i	8. e	9. g	10. c

Role Play

Role A – Illegal Logging

You think illegal logging is the biggest threat to the Amazon. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their threats aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least worrying of these (and why): pollution, corruption or fires.

Role B – Pollution

You think pollution is the biggest threat to the Amazon. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their threats aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least worrying of these (and why): illegal logging, corruption or fires.

Role C – Corruption

You think corruption is the biggest threat to the Amazon. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their threats aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least worrying of these (and why): pollution, illegal logging or fires.

Role D – Fires

You think fires are the biggest threat to the Amazon. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their threats aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least worrying of these (and why): pollution, corruption or illegal logging.

Speaking – Threats

Rank these with your partner. Put the biggest threats to the Amazon at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| • Illegal logging | • Eating meat |
| • Fires | • Global warming |
| • Pollution | • Poaching |
| • Overconsumption | • Corruption |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	T	d	T	e	F	f	F	g	T	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.