

## More than 80,000 fires are burning in the Amazon rainforest

### Elementary

#### 1 Warmer

Choose the correct answers in this South America quiz.

1. The most spoken language in South America is **Portuguese / Spanish**.
2. **Brasilia / Rio de Janeiro** is the capital of Brazil.
3. The most southern country of South America is **Argentina / Chile**.
4. The biggest country in South America is **Brazil / Peru**.
5. The longest river in South America is the **Amazon / the Orinoco**.

#### 2 Key words

Fill the gaps in the sentences with these key words from the text. The paragraph numbers will help you.

season

cattle

summit

lightning

species

crops

1. A \_\_\_\_\_ is a plant group or animal group. (para 1)
2. A \_\_\_\_\_ is a period of the year. (para 2)
3. \_\_\_\_\_ is a bright flash of light in the sky that you see during a thunderstorm. (para 3)
4. \_\_\_\_\_ are plants grown for food, usually on farms. (para 3)
5. \_\_\_\_\_ are cows that farmers keep for their milk or meat. (para 3)
6. A \_\_\_\_\_ is a meeting between leaders of two or more countries. (para 4)

#### 3 Find the information

Find the following information in the text as quickly as possible.

1. How much of the Amazon rainforest is in Brazil?
2. How many trees are there in the Amazon rainforest?
3. Which country has 13% of the Amazon rainforest?
4. How many fires have there been so far in 2019 in the rainforest?
5. When did official records of the number of fires begin?
6. How many soldiers has President Bolsonaro sent to the Amazon region?

## More than 80,000 fires are burning in the Amazon rainforest

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#### More than 80,000 fires are burning in the Amazon rainforest

3 October, 2019

- 1 The Amazon rainforest covers 5,500,000 square kilometres in nine countries of South America. Around 60% of the forest is in Brazil, 13% in Peru and 10% in Colombia. There are also smaller areas of the rainforest in Venezuela, Ecuador, Bolivia, Guyana, Suriname and French Guiana. It is the largest tropical rainforest in the world. It has more than 390 billion trees and thousands of different species of plants, insects, birds and animals.
- 2 The dry season in the Amazon usually lasts from the beginning of August until the end of November. In 2019, since the start of the dry season, there have been a large number of forest fires in the Amazon region. So far, there have been more than 80,000 fires in the Brazilian rainforest, and thousands of these are still burning. There are 77% more fires than in 2018. This is the largest number of fires since official records began in 2013.
- 3 Forest fires can be caused by natural events, particularly by lightning during thunderstorms. But experts believe that humans started most of the fires in the Amazon rainforest in 2019. This was mainly by farmers who clear the forest to make space to grow crops like soya or to make room for cattle farms. Some people believe that Jair Bolsonaro, who became president of Brazil in January 2019, is not doing enough to stop farmers burning trees. They say that he should do more to protect the rainforest.
- 4 President Bolsonaro has now sent 44,000 soldiers to the Amazon region, and world leaders at the G7 summit in France offered Brazil US \$22 million to help fight the fires. But it may be too little too late.

#### 4 Comprehension check

Match the beginnings to the endings to make statements about the text.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. The Amazon rainforest is ...            | a. ... fires in 2019 than in 2018.                             |
| 2. Thousands of different species live ... | b. ... offered Brazil US \$22 million to help fight the fires. |
| 3. The dry season in the Amazon region ... | c. ... in the Amazon rainforest.                               |
| 4. There have been 77% more ...            | d. ... started most of the fires.                              |
| 5. Experts think that humans ...           | e. ... the largest tropical rainforest in the world.           |
| 6. World leaders have ...                  | f. ... lasts for about four months.                            |

#### 5 Chunks

Rearrange the words to make phrases from the text.

1. five square million thousand hundred kilometres five
2. the until November end of
3. start season the since dry of the
4. late little too too

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#### 6 Two-word phrases

Match the words in the left-hand column with the words in the right-hand column to make expressions from the text.

- |           |            |
|-----------|------------|
| 1. forest | a. season  |
| 2. dry    | b. leaders |
| 3. world  | c. farm    |
| 4. cattle | d. fire    |

#### 7 Prepositions

Complete the phrases from the text using these prepositions.

for

of

since

to

1. thousands \_\_\_\_\_ different species
2. do more \_\_\_\_\_ protect the rainforest
3. make room \_\_\_\_\_ cattle farms
4. \_\_\_\_\_ the start of the dry season

#### 8 Discussion

- Should farming be illegal in the Amazon rainforest? Why? Why not?

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#### KEY

##### 1 Warmer

1. Portuguese
2. Brasilia
3. Chile
4. Brazil
5. the Amazon

##### 2 Key words

1. species
2. season
3. lightning
4. crops
5. cattle
6. summit

##### 3 Find the information

1. 60%
2. more than 390 billion
3. Peru
4. more than 80,000
5. 2013
6. 44,000

##### 4 Comprehension check

1. e
2. c
3. f
4. a
5. d
6. b

##### 5 Chunks

1. five million five hundred thousand square kilometres
2. until the end of November
3. since the start of the dry season
4. too little too late

##### 6 Two-word phrases

1. d
2. a
3. b
4. c

##### 7 Prepositions

1. of
2. to
3. for
4. since