



The **key** KNOWLEDGE

## The Amazon Basin Subject Knowledge

The Amazon Basin is a large region within the continent of South America, drained by the River Amazon and its tributaries. It is covered by rich equatorial rainforest. Within the rainforest live small groups of indigenous people. Manaus is a large city on the banks of the Amazon with a population of 2 million people. It is 1600 kms from the Atlantic Ocean, yet the river is still 8 kms wide. The Amazon rainforest is the largest in the world with 60% found in Brazil. It covers 6% of the earth's surface. Deforestation is a major threat to the ecosystem and contributes to climate change.

The **key** VOCABULARY

What geographical vocabulary do I need to learn?	
diversity	the variety of plants and animals in a place
region	a distinct part of a continent or country
equatorial rainforest	thick forest with a structure: emergents, canopy, under-storey, floor
equatorial climate	hot and wet throughout the year
ecosystem	a network of plants and animals which are interdependent
vegetation zone	zones which have a common group of vegetation
biome	biological communities which develop in response to a shared climate
extinction	when a species dies out
deforestation	clearing the forest legally or illegally
indigenous people	people who have always lived in a particular place
sustainability	meets the needs of the present without compromising the future
equator	imaginary line around the centre of the Earth

The **key** QUESTIONS

Key questions to consider
How would I describe the physical landscape?
What human features would I see?
How is the Amazon Basin a fragile and threatened ecosystem?
How can I help protect the rainforest?

The **key** SKILLS

KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS
Understand the location of the Amazon Basin region.
Evaluate the role of the rainforest in climate change.
Examine the diversity in the rainforest.
Make connections between key physical and human features in the rainforest.
Appreciate the size and importance of the River Amazon.
Use relevant geographical vocabulary.
Investigate how the people of the rainforest live and make a living.
Use evidence to justify opinions about deforestation.

*to help me understand the human and physical geography of a region within South America by thinking like a geographer*