

GET TO KNOW THE AMAZON

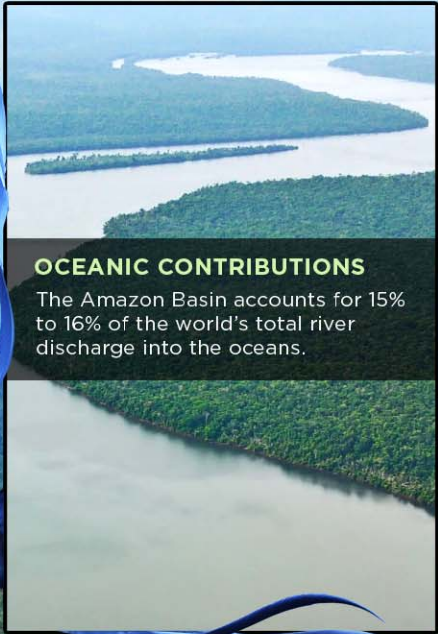


Facts courtesy of WWF
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GIGANTIC PROPORTIONS

The Amazon rainforest is the largest tropical rainforest in the world. It covers over 1.4 billion acres. More than half of the Amazon is located in Brazil but it is also located in other South American countries including Peru, Venezuela, Ecuador, Colombia, Guyana, Bolivia, Suriname and French Guiana.




OCEANIC CONTRIBUTIONS

The Amazon Basin accounts for 15% to 16% of the world's total river discharge into the oceans.

HOME TO MANY

About 30 million people live in the Amazon, including more than 300 indigenous groups. The many tribes of the Amazon are very diverse in culture, language and heritage. There are approximately 180 different languages spoken by these indigenous people.





OVERFLOWING WITH LIFE

10% of the world's known species live in the Amazon rainforest - this includes 20% of the world's bird species as well as many fierce predators like the jaguar.



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GET TO KNOW MACAWS



BLUE & YELLOW MACAW

SCIENTIFIC NAME Ara ararauna

HABITAT Tropical forests in South America

DIET Fruits, nuts, insects, snails

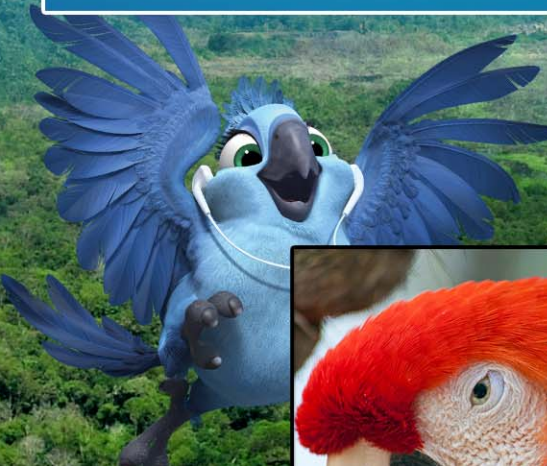
THREATS Habitat loss, illegal bird trade

INTERESTING FACT:

Some species of macaw eat damp soil, which may help to neutralize chemicals in their fruity diet and ease their stomachs.



Macaws are intelligent, social birds that often gather in flocks of 10 to 30. Their loud calls, squawks, and screams echo through the forest canopy. Macaws vocalize to communicate within the flock, mark territory, and identify one another. Some species can even mimic human speech.



SCARLET MACAW

SCIENTIFIC NAME Ara macao

HABITAT Tropical forests from Eastern Mexico to the Peruvian Amazon and Brazil

DIET Fruits and seeds

THREATS Habitat loss, illegal bird trade

INTERESTING FACT:

Both male and female scarlet macaws have the same coloring, unlike most other birds.

Scarlet macaws are one of the most brilliantly colored birds of the Central and South American rain forests. Highly intelligent, macaws mate for life and may live up to 70 years. Macaws sometimes move across the forest canopy in screeching flocks. WWF helped create Peru's spectacular Manu National Park, home to nearly 10 percent of all bird species on Earth.

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