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## **Protecting One of the Most Vital Rainforests**

By Mauricio B.

The Amazon Rainforest is the largest and most essential rainforest in the world. Spanning across 2.5 million square miles in Brazil, the Amazon is crucial for many things on the planet. For decades, the rainforest has undergone much deforestation for its resources and land for agriculture. With the recent wildfires, people have started to take notice of the importance of the Amazon and are trying to take more measures to stop the deforestation and destruction of this wonderful rainforest filled with countless mysteries. We should protect the Amazon Rainforest by shifting Brazil's focus from chopping and burning the rainforest to recovering degraded pastures because the Amazon is important as it hosts many unique plants and animals only found in the Amazon and it contains many trees that help the Earth.

The Amazon Rainforest is important as it contains many unique plants. Thousands of plant species are in this rainforest, many of which are exclusive to it. Once this forest is gone for good, so are these plants. Considering we still haven't discovered a majority of these species, many of them are lost forever. Scientists have uncovered thousands of medicinal properties in the plants found here in the Amazon. From helping with digestion to helping treat cancer, these healing plants can help with a lot of these. For example, the Lapato is a beautiful pink tree with anticancer properties. This tree can also help fight parasites, bacterial infections, and viruses. Losing plants like these would make it a lot harder to cure different diseases. This is one of the reasons the Amazon Rainforest is important for life on Earth.

Following that, another reason we have to protect the Amazon Rainforest is because of the sheer amount of trees in it. About 390 billion trees are contained here, many being burned and cut down. These trees take in

billions of metric tons of carbon which help the global climate. When we burn these trees, it causes the carbon to be released from the trees and let's it back into the atmosphere. This helps speed up the process of global warming, which is what we want to avoid. Burning the trees in the Amazon not only releases the carbon back into the atmosphere, it also disrupts the hydrological cycle. This is how the rainforest stays wet, and without it the entire forest would dry up. The rainforest requires 75-80% of its trees to keep this cycle going. We are rapidly approaching the tipping point of the rainforest and, once we do, it'll be gone forever. The most vital rainforest for our global climate will have vanished from our world.

Now comes the question, what can we do to stop this? I suggest that Brazil should recover degraded pasture as opposed to deforesting the Amazon. Brazil's goal in burning and cutting down the rainforest is to use it for agriculture. With the increasing demand for beef and soybeans, Brazil has to take drastic measures for it's chase for profit. Recovering degraded pasture will not only boost Brazil's capacity for beef and soybean production, but it will also help with the recovery of destroyed forests. It also comes with several economic benefits. According to the World Resources Institute, "The restoration of 12 million hectares (29 million acres) of degraded pastureland could lead to an increase of \$3.7 billion in additional agricultural production, alongside \$144 million in additional tax revenues from the agriculture sector alone." Overall, this would be a massive benefit for Brazil and its economy.

In summary, the Amazon rainforest is close to its tipping point of disappearing and we must help protect it. It gives us many medicinal plants and helps stabilize the global climate with its grand amount of trees. To solve this problem we should have Brazil recover degraded pasture as it will not only benefit them and their economy, but it will also help the fight against deforestation in the Amazon. In conclusion, the Amazon Rainforest is a crucial rainforest that helps us in many ways and we must do whatever it takes to save it.



# Project Rubric

**Final Paper:**

<b>Paragraphs</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Points</b>
<b>Introduction</b>	Contains a clear <u>thesis</u> and accurately describes the topic of the paper and why it is being written	3 2 1 0
<b>Argument 1</b>	Argument explains why it is important to protect the Amazon Rainforest, is clear, and uses 3 pieces of information from your sources to support your thesis	4 3 2 1 0
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<b>Argument 2</b>	Argument explains why it is important to protect the Amazon Rainforest, is unique and different from argument 1, is clear, and uses 3 pieces of information from your sources to support your thesis	4 3 2 1 0
<b>Action Plan</b>	Paragraph contains an action plan that describes programs and actions you would take in order to better protect the rainforest and the animals that live there. Your action plan must be specific with details that would help the government put it into use.	4 3 2 1 0
<b>Conclusion</b>	Contains clear <u>thesis</u> and summarizes the main ideas of your paper	3 2 1 0
<b>Grammar/ format</b>	Paper uses proper grammar, format and spelling throughout	2 1 0

**Final Paper Points: 20/ \_\_\_\_\_**

**Materials:**

<b>Peer Edit</b>	Completed peer edit assignment with thorough notes about your paper. Clear evidence that your partner has read and given you feedback to help improve your essay	3 2 1 0

<b>Research Table</b>	Completed research table with information about which 4 sources you used and what information you included in your essay.	2 1 0
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**Materials Points:** 5/ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Points:** 25/ \_\_\_\_\_