

Friday 5th March 2021

Tribes in The Amazon Rainforest



Identify important aspects of Amazonian tribes people's lives



Understand how life in the tribes is different to your own way of living



Create a letter writing as though you are a tribes person and you want to tell everyone all about your culture

Starter

Write down anything that you already know about tribes. This could be about what they wear, what they eat, where they live or how they live.

When you have finished this please read the information below about the Yanomani tribe.

Information

- With 20,000 total members, the Yanomani tribe is the largest tribe in the Amazon Rainforest.
- 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.



- The tribes live off the land and grow different types of fruits and vegetables such as bananas, passion fruit, papayas, corn, manioc and beans and the popular "super fruit", the acai berry.

- Communal houses are common and the structures are made out of bamboo covered in banana or palm leaves and



straw.



- The tribes that have made contact with the outside world wear minimal clothing. What they do wear is made from natural resources found in the rainforest. However, both the men and women in the tribes that have no contact with outsiders live completely naked.

- Spiritual ceremonies and rituals are commonplace. In a ritual to become a man in an Amazon tribe called Satere Mawe; young boys must wear gloves filled with bullet ants.



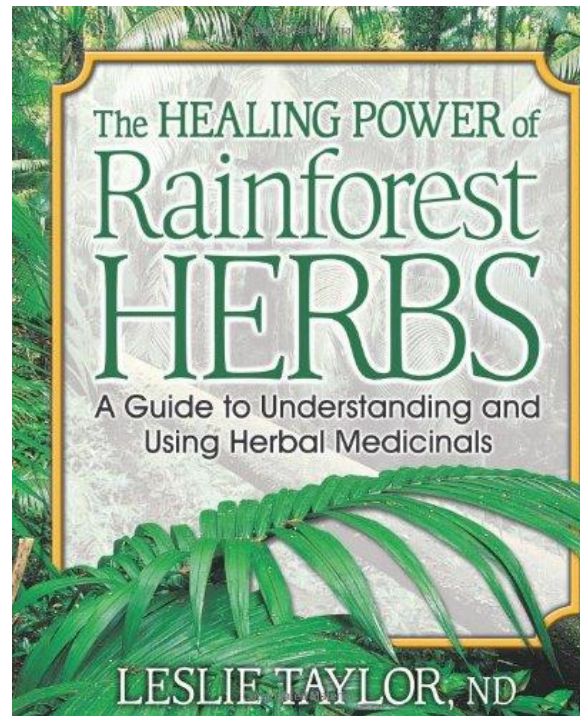
- Many Amazonian tribes believe that animal spirits inhabit all living things, such as trees and plants.

- The tribes of the Amazon are still hunters and gatherers who have extensive knowledge of almost every aspect of the rainforest in which they live.





- Many of the tribes also practice a slash and burn type of agriculture. When the resources are depleted, they move on to new land. The ashes from the fires they have burned will fertilise the soil so that the land can be used again in the future.
- Because many of the tribes do not have proper medical care, the life span of the Amazonian tribe people is considerably shorter than those living in the countries surrounding them.



Task:

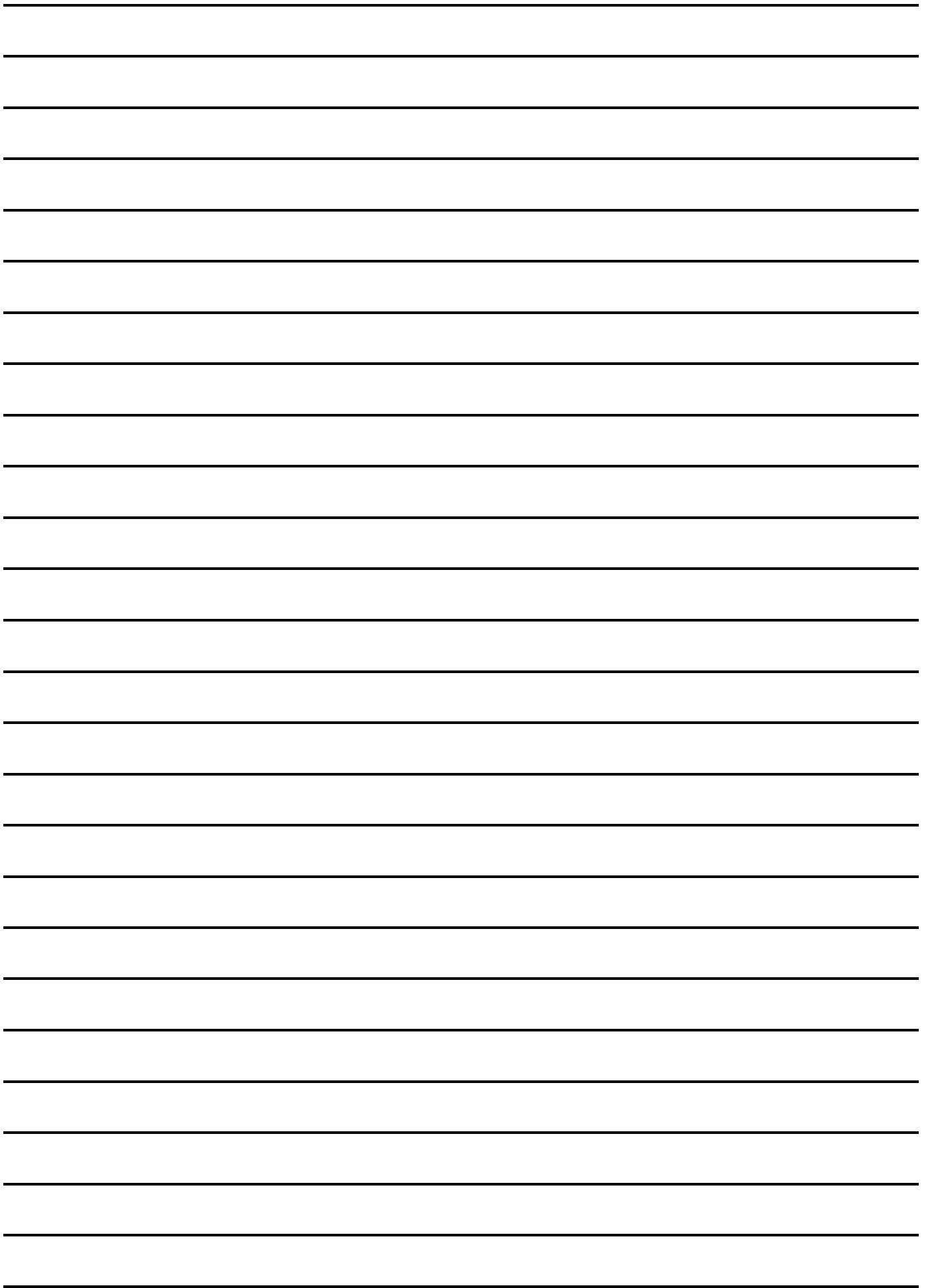
Imagine you are a tribes person from the Amazon.

Write a letter to someone who lives in the UK to tell them all about yourself and your lifestyle.

Try to include lots of details about what you have now learnt about the tribes of The Amazon. You could also include some of your own research on the Yanomani tribe.

Success Criteria	✓
Identify your name and the name of the tribe you come from	
Describe where you live (your home/the surroundings)	
Explain some of your beliefs/rituals	
Justify how you feel about living in the rainforest (what are some of the things you love, about it, what are some of the bad things?)	

I am expecting most of you to finish this before the end of the lesson. When you have completed your letter please have a go at the task below. Firstly you need to read through the information.



A Tribe Through Time

In 2006 it was Brazil's 506th birthday! This was the date that the first European explorers first discovered Brazil. But did they really discover it? There were already more than 1000 tribes living there, with as many as 4 million people!

Today in Brazil there are still 220 tribes speaking more than 180 different languages and adding up to about 370,000 people. One of the biggest is the Yanomami tribe. They have lived in the same part of Brazil for hundreds, maybe thousands of years. Let's find out more about them.



Until 1910, the Yanomami tribe only met with other tribes living in the area. However, all that changed in 1910 when outsiders first discovered them. People began to realise what the rainforest had to offer and soon companies moved in to collect rubber and the leaves from trees. There were also hunters moving through the forests along with travellers from all over the world.

Between 1940 and 1965 white people built churches in the forest, and met the people from the tribe. This allowed the Yanomami people to trade food and the things they had made for modern objects made in factories. This was a good thing but often they would catch colds, flu and measles from the whites. Soon land was cleared so farms could be built and sawmills set up to cut up the trees that were being cut down. The people who worked there came with more diseases and many of the Yanomami people died!

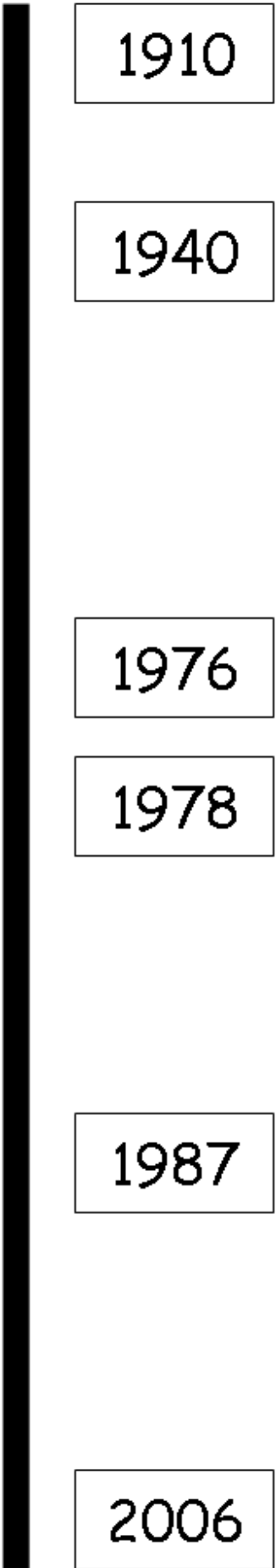


In 1976 the government of Brazil opened a road through the rainforest destroying everything in its path, including some of the homes of the Yanomami people. In 1978 a plan was made to clear more of the rainforest for houses. At the same time gold was found in the rocks and so thousands more people flocked to what was the rainforest to find gold. By 1987 there were 40,000 gold miners working there, five times more than the number of Yanomami people.

Today, now that much of the rainforest has been destroyed and the gold is gone, many of the gold miners have gone, but they have left behind a much smaller area of rainforest for the Yanomami people to live in.

So what about the future?

If you have printed this document then please move on to the next page, if not then please draw the timeline below.



1910

1940

1976

1978

1987

2006

If you have printed this then please cut out the statements below and place them in the correct location on the timeline. If you have not printed the document then please write them down in the correct location on your timeline.

40,000 miners were working in the area.

A road opens through the rainforest.

The Yanomami tribe were discovered. Rubber was taken from trees and palm leaves

Churches built in the forest. Trade started but disease spreads.

Sawmills and farms built.

Rainforests damaged, gold miners leave.

New homes built, the Gold Rush starts.