

Deforestation in Brazil

Teacher notes

This resource, and the associated PowerPoint, supports teaching the following requirements of the specifications.

WJEC GCSE Geography Specification	
Key Question	
5.4.1	How do people use ecosystems and environments?

Additional information

Q 1 & 2

It is advisable to shade the squares in one block as this helps evaluate how much of the Amazon rainforest has been lost. The PowerPoint 'Deforestation in Brazil' gives an example one way of completing the diagram. By using a vertical block for each time period, the diagram can be made to resemble a bar graph which can help in analysis of the trends.

Figures have been rounded to the nearest 1,000 km².

In 2016 the amount of forest lost was 8,000 km².

Q 3

Total area of forest lost since 1970 = 769,000 km²

Q 4

$$\frac{\text{Total area of forest lost since 1970}}{\text{Total forest area in 1970}} \times 100 = \frac{769,000}{4,100,000} \times 100 = 18.75\%$$

Q 5

Estimates are likely to be more accurate partly due to increased concern about the loss of the ecosystem since the 1970s. Also due to improvements in remote sensing technology such as aerial and satellite surveillance which allow more frequent and accurate records to be collected over a greater area.

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The graph paper on the right represents the estimated remaining area of Amazon rainforest in Brazil at the start of 1970 (4.1 million km²).

Each one of the smallest squares represents 1,000 km².

Follow the instructions below to show the extent of deforestation in Brazil's Amazon rainforest.

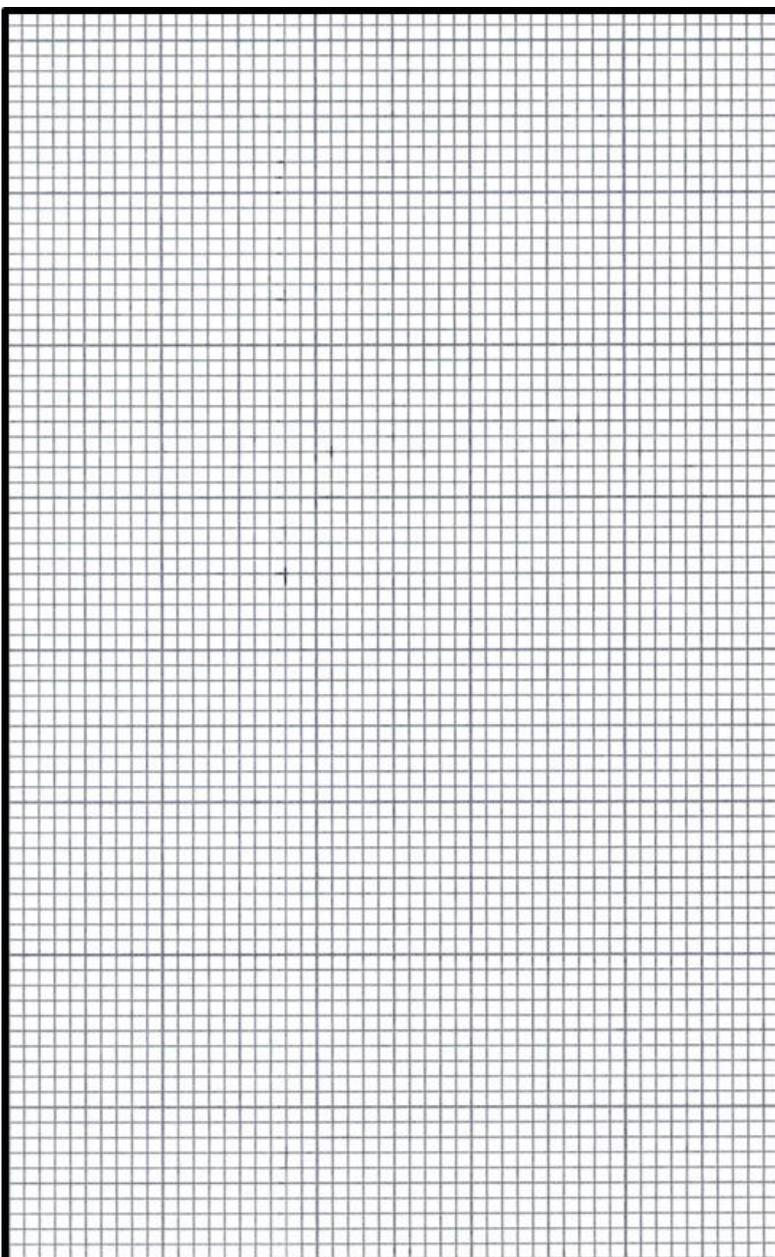
1) By the end of 1990 it was estimated that approximately 408,000 km² of Brazil's rainforest had been lost.

Shade 408 small squares on the graph paper to represent this area of lost forest.

Remember to complete the key.

2) Use the information in the table to complete the rest of the diagram.

Date	Loss of forest (km ²)
1991 - 1995	84,000
1996 - 2000	84,000
2001 - 2005	112,000
2006 - 2010	53,000
2011 - 2015	28,000

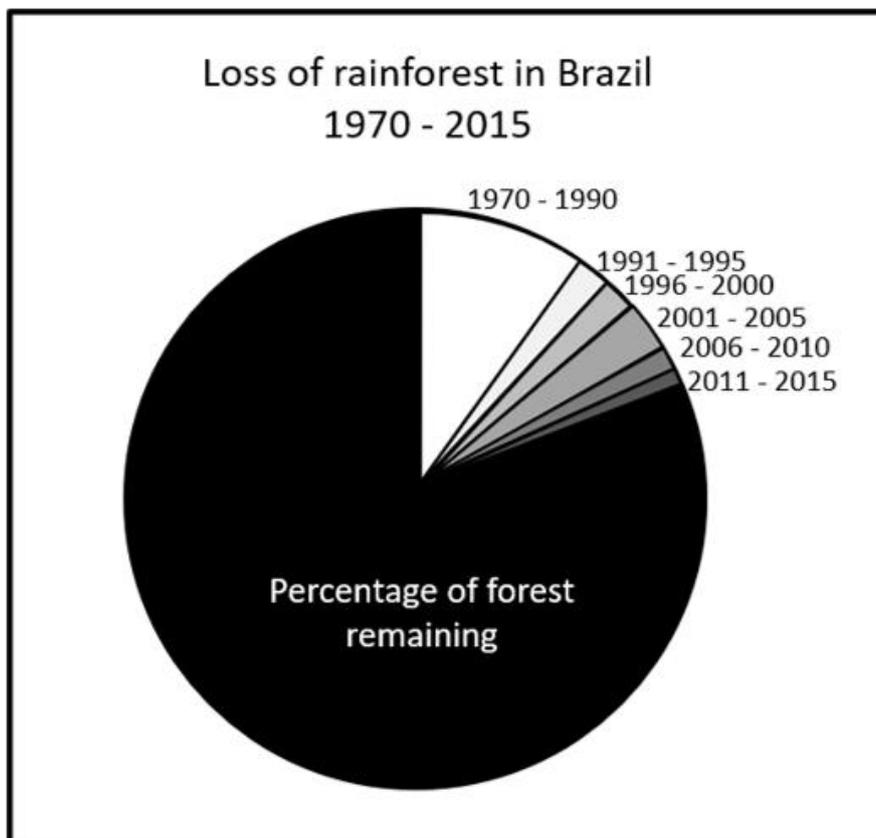


Key

- Forest lost between 1907 and 1990
- Forest lost between 1991 and 1995
- Forest lost between 1996 and 2000
- Forest lost between 2001 and 2005
- Forest lost between 2006 and 2010
- Forest lost between 2011 and 2015

Deforestation in Brazil

- 3) Describe the trends shown by your diagram.
- 4) What was the total area of rainforest lost since 1970?
- 5) What is the percentage of rainforest that has been lost since 1970?
- 6) The pie chart below shows the same information about the loss of rainforest but uses a different method of presentation. Which do you think is the most effective method of showing this information. Give reasons for your answer.



- 7) Why do you think the estimates of the amount of deforestation since 2000 are likely to be more accurate than the estimates made in the 1970s?
- 8) "If deforestation continues at its current rate, the entire Amazon rainforest will be lost by the end of this century". Based on the information in your diagram, do you think this statement is correct? Give reasons for your answer.