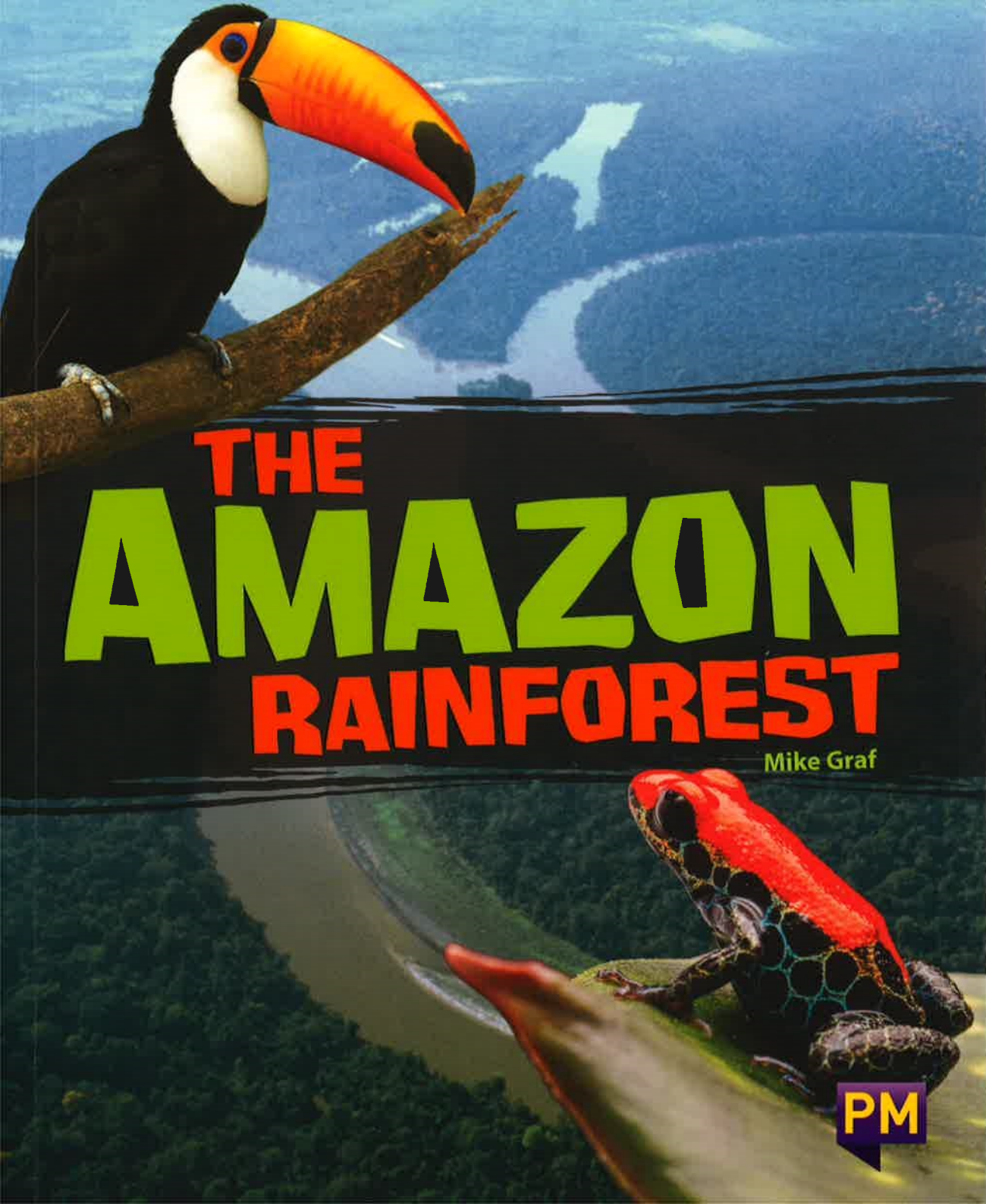

THE
AMAZON
RAINFOREST
Mike Graf
PM

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The Amazon Rainforest

Level 29

Running Words 2575 **Text Types** Information Report (Informative) pages 2–27
Exposition (Persuasive) pages 28–30

Curriculum Areas Humanities – Geography; Sustainability

Think and Talk About ...

Fact boxes in the book encourage each student to explore the statements further and to share the information with others.

Oral Literacy Focus for Students

Key issues from the text to encourage critical thinking and stimulate group discussions:

1 Explain why the Amazon Rainforest is the most biologically diverse place on Earth.
2 Imagine that a group of ecologists has just discovered a new community of indigenous people. Describe the reactions of both groups and explain how they communicated with each other
3 Discuss what would happen to birdlife and tree-dwelling mammals if most of the Amazon Rainforest trees were removed.
4 Establish why some rainforest creatures are more endangered than others, for example, the Golden Lion Tamarin Monkey.
5 Explain why the palm oil industry is considered to be harmful to the environment.

Written Literacy Focus for Students

Key issue from the text to present in visual and written form to an audience:

1 Research the topic 'Save our trees and our water'.
2 Prepare a brief text of factual information.
3 Edit and revise the text.
4 Present the text as a pamphlet or webpage with artwork or photographs.
5 Critically evaluate your pamphlet or webpage for effectiveness.

Links with other PM Guided Reading Books and Cards

Level 30	Book	Information Report	*Explosive Volcanoes*
Level 30	Book	Information Report	*Unexplained Mysteries*

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THE AMAZON RAINFOREST

Mike Graf

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The Incredible Amazon

The Amazon Rainforest is the world's largest rainforest. This rainforest extends into nine different countries in South America: Brazil, Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, Venezuela, Guyana, Suriname and French Guiana. Approximately 40 per cent of Brazil's total area is made up of the Amazon Rainforest.

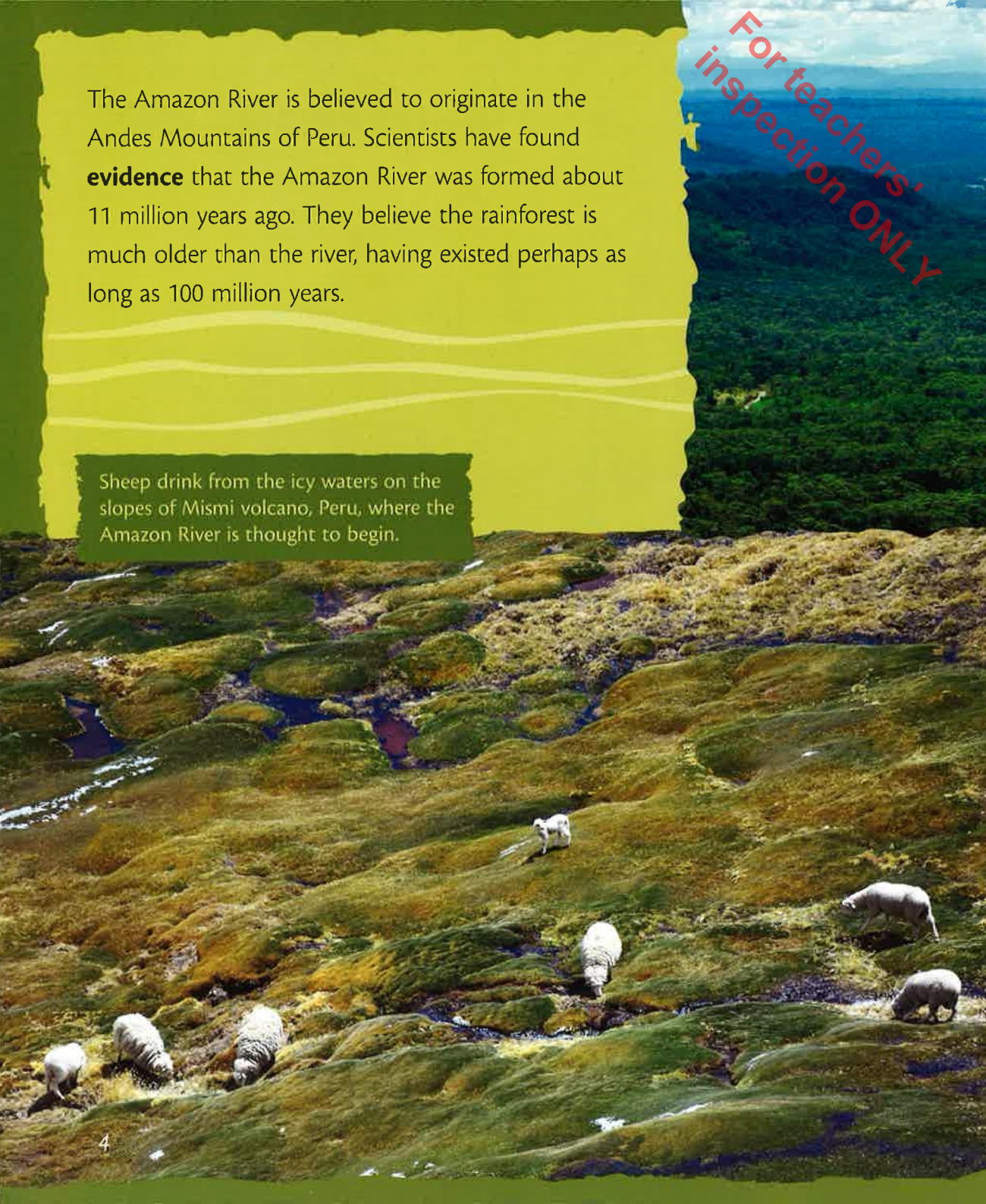
Most of the Amazon Rainforest area is situated between the Equator and the Tropic of Capricorn, making it a **tropical** rainforest. The whole rainforest is about six million square kilometres in area, covering one-third of South America. It makes up more than half of all tropical rainforest areas left on Earth.





The Amazon Rainforest is located on the continent of South America.

The Amazon River is believed to originate in the Andes Mountains of Peru. Scientists have found **evidence** that the Amazon River was formed about 11 million years ago. They believe the rainforest is much older than the river, having existed perhaps as long as 100 million years.



Sheep drink from the icy waters on the slopes of Mismi volcano, Peru, where the Amazon River is thought to begin.

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The Pastaza River flows through the Amazon Basin, eventually becoming part of the Amazon River.

The whole Amazon Rainforest is in the Amazon Basin, which has an area of about seven million square kilometres. The Amazon River and its connecting **tributaries** flow into this basin. The Amazon River is approximately 6400 kilometres long, and it is the second longest river in the world after the Nile River in Africa. The Amazon River releases more water into the ocean than any other river in the world.

Think and Talk About ...

The Amazon River discharges around 220 000 cubic litres of water per second into the Atlantic Ocean.

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People and the Amazon

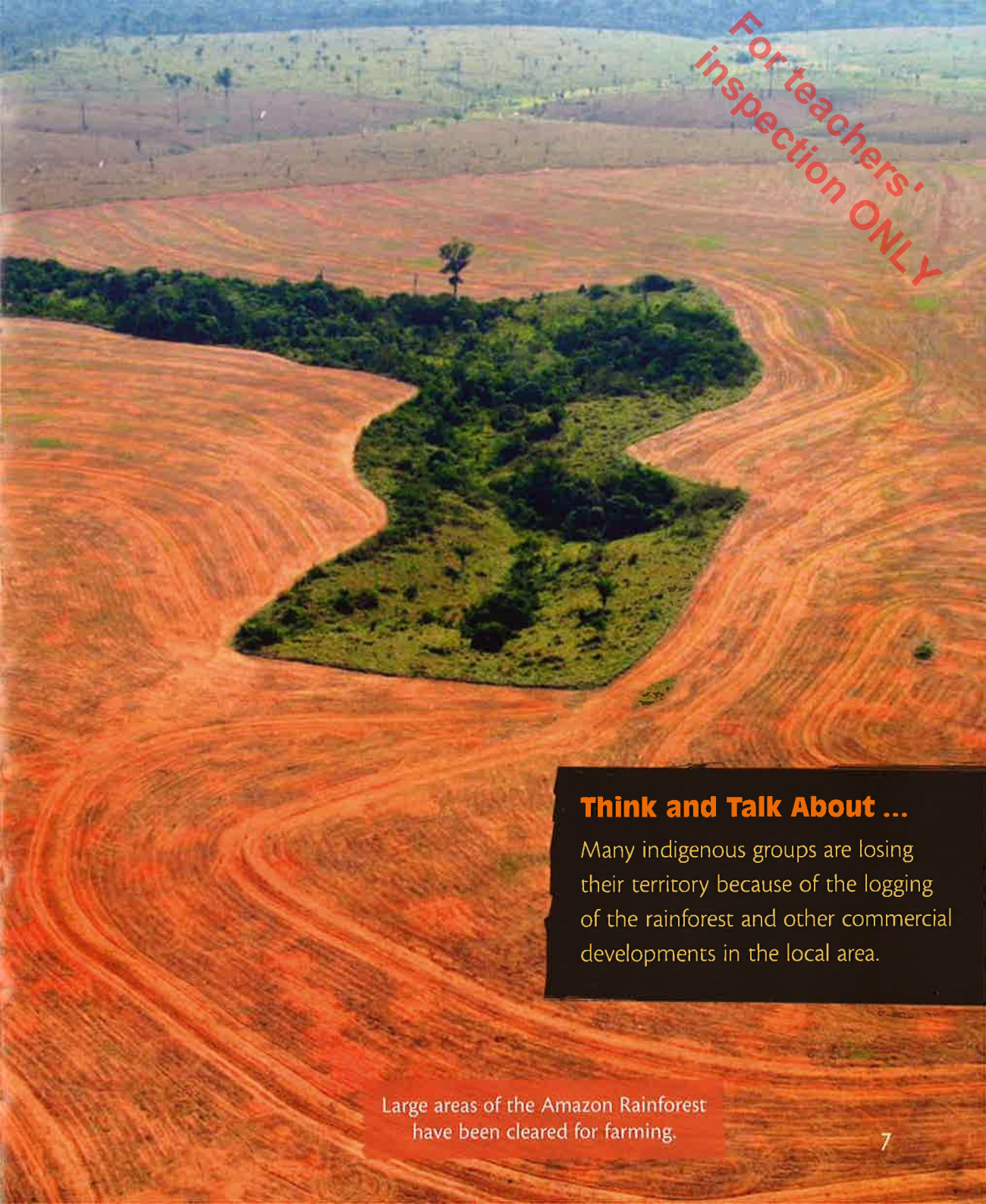
Indigenous people have lived in the Amazon Rainforest for hundreds of years. When Europeans arrived in South America, there were many people with different languages and cultures living in the rainforest. These days, fewer people live in the rainforest, as they have been forced to move to cities and reserves. However, there are still some communities that have never had contact with the outside world.

Indigenous people living in the rainforest are able to get everything they need from hunting, fishing, and gathering and growing crops in the forest. There are many plants that can be used for food, shelter, medicine and tools. The Waimiri Atroari people of the Brazilian Amazon use 32 different kinds of plants just to make hunting equipment.



Indigenous children look out over their small village from a traditional hut in the Amazon Rainforest of Brazil.

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Think and Talk About ...

Many indigenous groups are losing their territory because of the logging of the rainforest and other commercial developments in the local area.

Large areas of the Amazon Rainforest have been cleared for farming.

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The Amazon is the world's largest rainforest. It makes up more than half of all tropical rainforest areas on Earth. The Amazon Rainforest is home to groups of South American indigenous peoples, who have lived there for hundreds of years. More species of wildlife can be found in the Amazon Rainforest than in any other habitat on Earth.

There are some incredible insects, fish, reptiles, birds and mammals in the Amazon Rainforest, some of which are endangered or threatened species. There are also thousands of plant species, and some of these can be used for medicine or food. Deforestation and climate change have destroyed areas of the rainforest, but many people are also working to save it.

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