

The Amazon Rain Forest

INFORMATIONAL TEXT
SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Level	K/20
Lexile®	540L

Informational Text

Look for the genre features noted below as you read this book. Use the features to help you understand the text.

The text focuses on a main topic.

Domain-specific words are used to tell about the topic.

The text includes facts and details to explain the topic.

Informational Text

A Table of Contents and chapter headings show how information is organized.

Pictures, maps, and charts give information about the topic.

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What Is the Amazon?

The Amazon is a **tropical** rain forest. It is the largest rain forest in the world. It is home to thousands of plant and animal species.

▼ The Amazon River runs through the rain forest.



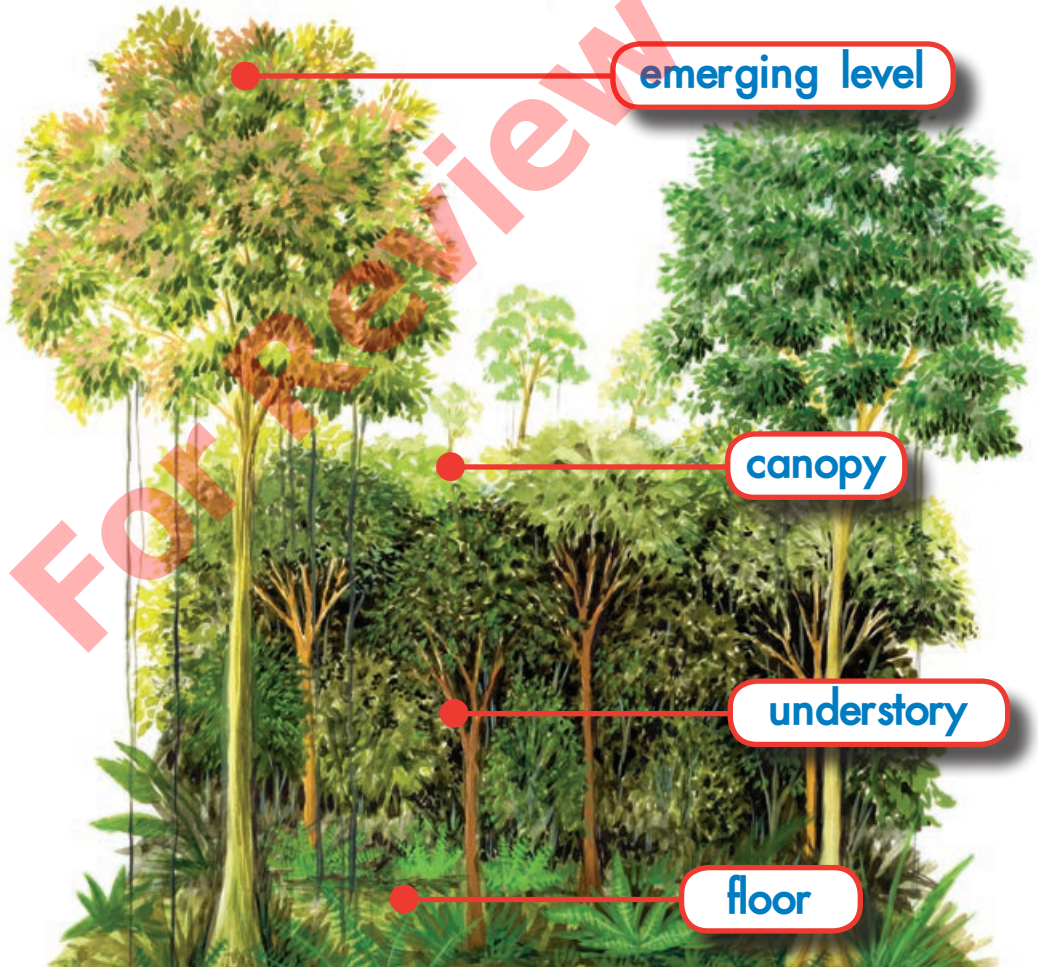
The Amazon rain forest is so big it spans multiple countries. Most of the rain forest is located in Brazil.



- ▲ The Amazon rain forest covers almost half of South America.

The Amazon is a complex **ecosystem**. It has four layers filled with rare plants and animals. Different plants, animals, and other **wildlife** live in each layer.

▼ There are four levels in the rain forest.



For example, the rain forest has more than 200 known species of birds. Many of these birds live in the emerging level of the rain forest.

▼ The toucan caw can be heard from miles away.



What Can You See in the Amazon Rain Forest?

The Amazon rain forest contains more than 40,000 species of plants and trees. There are tall trees with long roots and colorful flowers.



▲ The passion fruit flower grows in the rain forest.





- ◀ The roots of the Cashapona tree can grow to be 20 meters (65 feet) tall!

The Amazon rain forest gets hundreds of inches of rain each year. The rainfall contributes to the amazing plant life in the rain forest. The rain helps keep the plants lush and green. Plants on the floor level of the rain forest get less rain.

The tall trees get direct sunlight and much of the rainfall. Monkeys, birds, and butterflies live in the tall trees of the Amazon. Tall trees make up the **canopy** of the rain forest.

▼ Spider monkeys live in the canopy.



The rain forest has exotic plants. Some of these plants are edible. Bananas, coffee, and cacao grow in the rain forest. Some plants provide food for animals in the Amazon.

