

Name _____ Date _____

Exploring the Animals and Plants in the Amazon Rain Forest

The MapMaker Interactive is an interactive Geographic Information Systems (GIS) mapping tool. It includes features that help you view and customize maps to explore questions you are interested in investigating. You will start with a MapMaker investigation to explore the biodiversity of the Amazon rain forest.

Go to the MapMaker Interactive at natgeoed.org/mapmaker-interactive. Navigate to the Help section, located in the upper right corner of the page, and explore its different tools and features.

Part 1. Using MapMaker to Explore Animals and Plants in Regions of the Amazon Rain Forest

Open a MapMaker Interactive geo-tour using the following link: natgeoed.org/geography-wildlife-amazon, which will load the Geography and Wildlife of the Amazon Basin geo-tour.

At the bottom, you will see several bookmarks. In groups, you will explore different parts of the Amazon rain forest. Depending on the region assigned to your group, you will open the bookmarks for the animals and then the plants located in that region of the Amazon rain forest. For example, if you are assigned the western Amazon, first explore the Animals of the Western Amazon bookmark. Then explore Plants of the Western Amazon.

1. Circle the region you are exploring.

western Amazon

northern Amazon

eastern Amazon

Animals in the Amazon

2. Before exploring the animals map for your region, click on the “i” icon located on the bottom right corner of the bookmark. What information is provided about the animals in your region?

3. Next, look at the map. You will see numbers (markers) that you can click on for images of different animals, along with information about them. Include three of the animals in the table on page 2. Add facts you learned about them that relate to the importance of the animal within the Amazon ecosystem. This information is going to be used as evidence for the argument you will construct later in this activity.

Exploring the Animals and Plants in the Amazon Rain Forest, continued

Animal Name	Why is this animal important to the Amazon rain forest? Are there any threats to the animal's survival? If so, what are they?
Region: _____ Learned from MapMaker:	
Learned from other sources (include the name or link of the source):	
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Learned from other sources (include the name or link of the source):	
Region: _____ Learned from MapMaker:	
Learned from other sources (include the name or link of the source):	

Exploring the Animals and Plants in the Amazon Rain Forest, continued

Plants in the Amazon

1. Before exploring the plants map for your region, click on the “i” icon located on the bottom right corner of the bookmark. What information is provided about the plants in your region?

2. Next, look at the map. You will see numbers (markers) that you can click on for images of different plants, along with information about them. Include three of the plants in the table below. Add facts you learned about them that relate to the importance of the plant within the Amazon ecosystem. This information is going to be used as evidence for the argument you will construct.

Plant Name	Why is this plant important to the Amazon rain forest? Are there any threats to the plant's survival? If so, what are they?
Region: _____	
Learned from MapMaker:	
Learned from other sources (include the name or link of the source):	

Exploring the Animals and Plants in the Amazon Rain Forest, continued

Plant Name	Why is this plant important to the Amazon rain forest? Are there any threats to the plant's survival? If so, what are they?
<p>Region: _____</p> <p>Learned from MapMaker:</p> <p>Learned from other sources (include the name or link of the source):</p>	
<p>Region: _____</p> <p>Learned from MapMaker:</p> <p>Learned from other sources (include the name or link of the source):</p>	

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