

# **The Vanishing Rainforest**

**I can create a timeline about the Yanomami tribe.**

**Friday 5th June 2020**

## People of the Rainforest

Did you know that there are about 50,000,000 tribal people living in world's rainforests? These people depend on the forests for their food and shelter. As we cut more and more trees and destroy more and more of the forests, we are also killing people. Many native tribes have been exterminated already because their governments failed to protect them from logging companies, the mining companies and the slash and burn farmers.



*Our story is taking place in the Amazon Rainforest, where the Yanomami people live.*

Let's learn a bit more about them.

# Here is some information about the three of the larger and more well-known tribes:

	<h3>The Pygmies</h3> <p>This Pygmy woman is preparing food outside her hut, with her baby cradled on her back. Mbuti and Baka Pygmies live in the rainforests of Central Africa. Traditionally they live by hunting and gathering food.</p>
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	<h3>The Huli</h3> <p>The Huli are one of the many tribes that live in the remote highland forests of Papua New Guinea. They live by hunting, gathering plants and growing crops. Men and women live separately, in large group houses. The men decorate their bodies with colored clay and wear elaborate headdresses for ceremonies.</p>
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	<h3>The Yanomami</h3> <p>One of the largest groups of Amerindian people in South America is the Yanomami. Their village life is centered around the <b>yano</b>, or communal house. The yano is a large, circular building constructed of vine and leaf thatch, which has a living space in the middle. This picture shows Yanomami men eating a meal.</p>
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## More about the Yanomami...

Please visit the following link to learn more about the Yanomami - **the great observers of nature.**

<https://www.survivalinternational.org/articles/3162-yanomami-botanical-knowledge>



## Yano - the communal house.



# Task - see the attached sheets. Read through the information about the Yanomami. Complete the time line by placing all events in order.

## A Tribe Through Time

In 2006 it was Brazil's 506<sup>th</sup> 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 1960 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 many of the gold miners rainforest for the Yanomami people to live in.

So what about the future?

Cut and stick to match the event to the year on the 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 collected.

Rainforests damaged, gold miners leave.

Churches built in the forest. Trade started but disease spreads. Sawmills and farms built.

New homes built, the Gold Rush starts.

1910

1940

1976

1978

1987

2006