



FOREST IN FLAMES

WORLD WATCHES IN HORROR AS THE AMAZON RAINFOREST BURNS

PARTS of the Amazon rainforest have now been on fire for more than a month.

The fires are destroying large areas of rainforest, mostly in Brazil. Some of the fires were started naturally by lightning. But many others were started on purpose by people who want to clear land and use it for farming.

The Amazon is the world's largest tropical rainforest. It is home to over three million different kinds of animals and plants. The area is called "the lungs of the world" because it makes over 20% (a fifth) of the world's oxygen that we need to breathe.

The rainforest is also our biggest natural defence against global warming. Plants and trees absorb carbon dioxide, one of the gases causing our planet to warm up.



Many people around the world have blamed the president of Brazil for not doing enough to prevent or to tackle the fires. Several countries, including the UK, have promised to give £18 million to help fight the fires. But, so far, the Brazilian president has refused to accept the money.

Questions on: 'Forest in flames'

1) In which country are most of these fires taking place?

- Bolivia
- Brazil
- Belize

2) What is a natural cause of the fires?

3) Why are some people choosing to start fires?

4) Can you explain why the Amazon rainforest is called 'the lungs of the world'?

5) Find two facts about the gas carbon dioxide.

6) How much money has been promised by the UK and other countries to help with the fires?

7) Which two words describe the messages that the president of Brazil received from around the world?

- thanks
- blame
- praise
- criticism

8) Imagine you are a reporter, working for *First News*, and you've been asked to find out more about this story. Think of **three questions** you would like to investigate.

