

Amazonian Tribes

Read through the information on each tribe and then answer the questions below.

Panama Tribe

- We are nomadic farmers. This means that we move from place to place finding fresh resources and good land to graze our cattle. When the resources run low in one place, we relocate.
- When we move to a new place, we deforest large areas to create new grazing land for our herd.
- We make money by selling beef to international companies.
- We live off our land, hunting and eating the fruit and vegetables we can grow or find.
- We use natural resources to create jewellery and face paints.



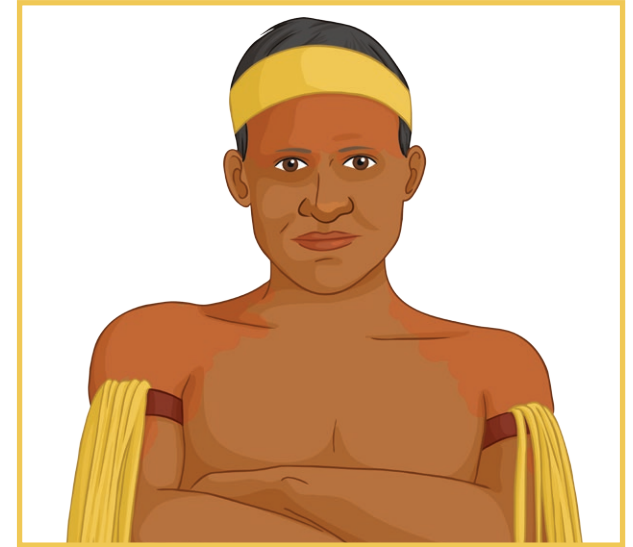
Kayapo Tribe

- Our disks in our lips and flamboyant headdresses show our importance and position in the tribe hierarchy.
- We grow our own crops on our land in the forest.
- We rely on hunting in the rainforest for food. We regularly send the men of the tribe out on hunts with spears and blow pipes to catch animals.
- We use over 650 plants that grow naturally in the rainforest to create medicine. We believe that these medicines can heal us and protect us from future ailments.



Korubo Tribe

- We rely mainly on fishing for food.
- We build our settlements near to rivers so that fishing is easily accessible.
- We build our houses on stilts to stop them flooding.
- Our body art is used to represent different rainforest animals. We use plants to create the paint.
- We use feathers and tree bark to make body ornaments.



Tupi Tribe

- We are rubber tappers. This means we harvest rubber from rubber trees. We cut channels in tree bark with knives and collect the sap that drains from the tree.
- We make money by selling our rubber to international companies around the world.
- We make jewellery from animal teeth and bones.
- We make our face and body paints from plants.
- We live sustainably. We use the natural resources in the rainforest carefully, we only take what we need and we try to replace anything we use. We live in harmony with nature.



Question Time

Use the information to answer these questions.

1. Name two tribes who make money by selling their products to the wider world. What do they sell?

2. Which tribe is described as nomadic?

3. What does “nomadic” mean?

4. Which tribe uses feathers and bark to make body ornaments?

5. Which tribe might be able to help with medical research? Why?

6. What do the Tupi tribe make from plants?

7. How do the Tupi tribe collect rubber?

8. Which tribe could teach us how to protect our houses from flooding?

9. Which tribe lives the most sustainable lifestyle and why?

10. Which tribe has the most destructive impact on the natural environment and why?

Extension:

Which tribe is more destructive to their environment, the Kayapo or the Korubu? Justify your choice.

Travel Blog

Write a travel blog about your day in the rainforest.

- You should try to include details about all four tribes.
- Include some interesting facts from your research.
- Perhaps make up some conversations you could have had with tribe members and quote what they told you about in quotation marks ("...").
- Include some information about how the tribes use the rainforest – both positive and negative ways.

Question Time

1. Name two tribes who make money by selling their products to the wider world. What do they sell?
The Panama tribe sell beef to countries around the world. The Tupi tribe sell rubber to countries around the world.
2. Which tribe is described as nomadic?
Panama tribe
3. What does “nomadic” mean?
Moving from place to place to farm or find fresh resources
4. Which tribe uses feathers and bark to make body ornaments?
Korubo tribe
5. Which tribe might be able to help with medical research? Why?
The Kayapo tribe help with medical research; they use over 650 plants from the rainforest in their medicine.
6. What do the Tupi tribe make from plants?
Body paint
7. How do the Tupi tribe collect rubber?
By cutting channels in tree bark and collecting the sap that drains out
8. Which tribe could teach us how to protect our houses from flooding?
Korubo tribe; they build their houses on stilts to combat flooding.
9. Which tribe lives the most sustainable lifestyle and why?
Tupi tribe; they try to replace whatever they use.
10. Which tribe has the most destructive impact on the natural environment and why?
Panama tribe; they move from place to place, deforesting large areas each time.

Extension:

Which tribe is more destructive to their environment, the Kayapo or the Korubu? Justify your choice.

Students may vary in their answer; accept either tribe as correct if it is justified with evidence.

Kayapo tribe – they hunt animals in the forest, but do grow their own crops. They use many naturally occurring plants as a medical source, suggesting they settle for long periods.

Korubo tribe – they hunt, but only from rivers. They settle in one place and do not move frequently because their homes are protected from flooding.