

**Year Group:** Year 3-6

**Length:** 28 mins

**Starting Positions:** Standing in your own space

### Learning Intention:

*To know about...*

- How animals and vegetation change through the different layers of the rainforest
- The lives of rainforest people and how they live sustainably
- How and why the rainforest is being destroyed

### Synopsis:

- We leave the city with our aunt, Carmen, who is very ill and can no longer work. We are off to stay with our older brother, Miguel, who has a job near the Amazon rainforest.
- Miguel welcomes us to his home, and explains that rainforest trees are being felled and burned.
- Carmen goes to bed, ill, but gives us a small wooden butterfly as a gift, explaining the real thing can be found in the rainforest.
- Despite her warnings, we wander into the rainforest in search of the butterfly, and get lost.
- Luckily a friendly Amazonian girl, Tatui, helps us out of the forest and cures our snakebite in her village.
- There, we get an insight into how the rainforest people live sustainably. But men with machines and chainsaws are destroying the landscape, disturbing the wildlife and dislocating the native people.
- We discover that Miguel is working for the gold-diggers responsible for a lot of the destruction.
- With Tatui and some villagers, we stand in front of the trees that are to be felled, and we save the trees and the “hope plant”, which might be able to provide a cure for Carmen’s illness.
- The goldmine is shut down, as it was being operated illegally.

### Characters

- **Carmen** – your aunt, who is poorly
- **Miguel** – your brother who works in a town near the rainforest
- **Tatui** – a local girl affected by the destruction of the rainforest
- **Hans** – German scientist who’s doing research on the indigenous ‘hope plant’
- **Mr Sanchez** – businessman
- **Governor** – local government representative

## Locations:

- **The Amazon Rainforest**

## Glossary:

- **Indigenous** – native to a particular place
- **Dynamite** – an explosive which is moulded into sticks
- **Sustainability** – the ability to maintain at a certain rate
- **A clearing** – an open space in a forest

## Discussion:

### Story & Factual

- Why did you have to leave your home at the beginning of the story?
- Where did your brother live and what was his job?
- What could you smell in the air when you were in your brother's house?
- Who did you meet in the rainforest, and what did you learn from them about their way of life?
- Why were people cutting down the rainforest trees? (three reasons)
- What did you do to stop them cutting down more of the rainforest (and the "hope plant")?
- What was Hans doing in the Amazon Rainforest? How is his work different to the work of the miners and other men?

### PSHE & Philosophical

- How would you feel if you had to leave your home?
- Would you like to live in the Amazon Rainforest with your family? Why / why not?
- What would be the advantages / disadvantages of living in the rainforest?
- Do you think the rainforest should be cut down to make nice furniture and to mine gold? Why / why not?
- Your brother Miguel was the manager of the gold mine. He had to work there in order to support you and your aunt, but the gold digging was also destroying the Amazon – do you think he should have quit his job to help save the rainforest, or stay in his job to support you and Carmen?
- What are some of the ways we can help to preserve the rainforest and save animals from extinction?

## Resources:

You'll find these follow up resources on your shared drive:

- **Literacy Resources** – 5 creative writing ideas
- **Photo Storyboard** – order the images from the story (or use them for other things – e.g. writing)
- **Quick Quiz** – re-cap key facts
- **Or try some recount, report or creative writing ideas of your own!**