

A Trillion Tropical Leaves

The Amazon river's a mighty beast
that meanders and powers and weaves;
its fingers and veins flowing into the heart
of a trillion tropical leaves.

It sits in the land of the samba and dance,
South American countries count nine:
There's Brazil and Peru, Colombia too,
then Bolivia waits next in line.

The rainforest's huge; the biggest on Earth
with millions of creatures and trees.
Great Britain could fit in there 26 times,
or 42 Englands with ease!

There're caimans and sloths, and ocelots too,
piranhas and things that can bite;
tarantulas, crocodiles, spiders and snakes,
and jaguars spotted and bright.

And what do we do to this Eden on Earth?
This land of such beauty and awe?
We slash and we burn and we chop it all down,
then we slash and we burn it some more.

The Amazon Rainforest's crying for help,
ecosystems are naturally linked,
it's dying, it's hurt; shall we chop down some more
until all of Earth's life is extinct?

1. Write down six animals that the poem mentions:

1. caimans 2. sloths 3. ocelots
4. piranhas 5. crocodiles 6. jaguars

2. What does it mean by

'its fingers and veins flowing into the heart of a trillion tropical leaves'?

A meander that there lots trees
that have millions of leaves

3. Look at the words at the end of the lines in the poem. Some of them rhyme.

Find and write the word in the poem that rhymes with each of these:

nine → line bite → bright
extinct → linked more → awe

4. Read the final verse. In your own words, summarise what's happening in the verse and what the poem is actually saying:

It's saying that it needs because
people chopping way too many
trees.

