



Meet 11 of the Amazon's Most Dangerous Creatures

Description

The Amazon rainforest spans between 5.5 and 7 million square kilometres, making it the largest tropical rainforest in the world. This vast ecosystem hosts a remarkable variety of life, including 400 mammals, 1,300 birds, and 3,000 fish, as well as at least 40,000 plant species.

Among its inhabitants are notorious predators, including the giant centipede, poison dart frog, and bullet ant, which all pose serious threats to other animals and humans. The Amazonian giant centipede, reaching over 30 centimetres in length, ambushes prey with venom that can be toxic to mammals. Although it has killed a child in the past, bites typically result in severe pain rather than fatality.

The striking poison dart frog, known for its bright colours, has skin toxins that can range from mild numbing to paralysis or even death. Indigenous tribes historically used these toxins to coat their hunting darts. The bullet ant, measuring around 2.5 centimetres, delivers an excruciating sting likened to a gunshot, resulting in pain that can linger for over 24 hours.

In addition, the green anaconda, the heaviest snake on Earth, can weigh over 250 kilograms and reach lengths of more than 9 metres. This powerful predator hunts primarily in water, using its size to overwhelm large animals.

Although encounters with the bull shark, known for its territorial nature, are statistically rare, they can be found deep in the Amazon River. These carnivorous creatures have an appetite for both freshwater and marine prey.

In summary, the Amazon rainforest is home to many dangerous species, each playing a vital role in its complex ecosystem. Understanding these creatures can help protect this unique environment.

Vocabulary List:

1. **Ecosystem** /i:kə'sɪs.təm/ (noun): Many living things and their environment.
2. **Species** /'spi:ʃɪz/ (noun): A group of similar living things.
3. **Predator** /'preɪ.tər/ (noun): An animal that hunts for food.
4. **Toxic** /'tɒk.sɪk/ (adjective): Harmful or poisonous to living things.
5. **Ambush** /'æm.bʊʃ/ (verb): To attack suddenly from hiding.
6. **Venom** /'ven.əm/ (noun): A poisonous substance from animals.

Comprehension Questions



Multiple Choice

1. What is the size range of the Amazon rainforest?
 - Option: 1.5 to 2 million square kilometres
 - Option: 5.5 to 7 million square kilometres
 - Option: 10 to 12 million square kilometres
 - Option: 3 to 4 million square kilometres

2. How many species of fish are found in the Amazon rainforest?
 - Option: 1,000
 - Option: 2,000
 - Option: 3,000
 - Option: 4,000

3. Which predator is known for its excruciating sting?
 - Option: Giant centipede
 - Option: Poison dart frog
 - Option: Bullet ant
 - Option: Green anaconda

4. What is the length of the Amazonian giant centipede?
 - Option: 10 centimetres
 - Option: 20 centimetres
 - Option: 30 centimetres
 - Option: 40 centimetres

5. Which creature can weigh over 250 kilograms?
 - Option: Giant centipede
 - Option: Green anaconda
 - Option: Poison dart frog
 - Option: Bull shark

6. The Amazon rainforest is home to how many plant species at least?
 - Option: 10,000
 - Option: 20,000
 - Option: 30,000
 - Option: 40,000



True-False

7. The Amazon rainforest is the largest tropical rainforest in the world.
8. The bullet ant is known for its mild sting.
9. Poison dart frogs have skin toxins that can only cause mild numbing.
10. The Amazonian giant centipede can reach lengths of over 30 centimetres.
11. Bull sharks are often found in shallow waters of the Amazon River.
12. The green anaconda is the heaviest snake on Earth.

Gap-Fill

13. The Amazon rainforest spans between _____ million square kilometres.
14. The Amazon rainforest hosts at least _____ plant species.
15. The bullet ant can deliver a sting that lasts for over _____ hours.
16. The giant centipede can ambush prey with its _____ venom.
17. Indigenous tribes used the toxins of poison dart frogs to coat their hunting _____.
18. The Amazonian giant centipede can reach more than _____ centimetres in length.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. 5.5 to 7 million square kilometres 2. 3,000 3. Bullet ant 4. 30 centimetres 5. Green anaconda 6. 40,000

True-False: 7. True 8. False 9. False 10. True 11. False 12. True

Gap-Fill: 13. 5.5 and 7 14. 40,000 15. 24 16. toxic 17. darts 18. 30

Vocabulary quizzes



Multiple Choice (Select the Correct answer for each question.)

1. What term is used to categorize a group of organisms capable of interbreeding?
Option: Ecosystem
Option: Species
Option: Predator
Option: Mutant

2. What term refers to substances that can cause harm or injury to living organisms?
Option: Ambush
Option: Toxic
Option: Venom
Option: Focus

3. Which structure provides support for the body of many organisms?
Option: Skull
Option: Ecosystem
Option: Skeleton
Option: Technology

4. What is a toxic substance produced by some animals to immobilize their prey?
Option: Predator
Option: Venom
Option: Mechanic
Option: Emerging

5. What process involves reassembling parts to recreate an object or organism?
Option: Reconstruction
Option: Transformations
Option: Cooperate
Option: Decline

6. What term refers to the application of scientific knowledge for practical purposes?
Option: Focus
Option: Technology
Option: Notable
Option: Visual

7. What tactic involves attacking something unexpectedly?
Option: Skeleton
Option: Ambush
Option: Preserved



Option: Significant

8. What term describes a community of living organisms and their physical environment interacting as a system?

Option: Attribute

Option: Species

Option: Ecosystem

Option: Collection

9. Which term refers to someone who repairs or maintains machinery?

Option: Mechanic

Option: Notable

Option: Significant

Option: Focus

10. What term is used to describe a decrease in quality quantity or strength?

Option: Emerging

Option: Decline

Option: Transformations

Option: Incorporate

Gap-Fill (Fill in the blanks with the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

11. The _____ protects the brain and forms the structure of the head.

12. To enhance the presentation we used _____ aids such as charts and images.

13. In nature _____ can lead to new species evolving over time.

14. The findings of the research were deemed _____ for understanding climate change.

15. To achieve our goals we must _____ with other teams and departments.

16. The scientist made a _____ contribution to the field of genetics.

17. The technology sector has many _____ industries that are developing rapidly.

18. The museum's _____ of ancient artifacts is truly impressive.

19. A lion is often seen as a top _____ in its habitat.



20. The artists were _____ by nature and its beauty.

Matching Sentences (Match each definition to the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

21. Certain snakes use venom to subdue their prey before consumption.
22. Coral reefs provide a rich and diverse ecosystem for marine life.
23. With advancements in technology our understanding of the universe has grown exponentially.
24. The human skeleton is composed of 206 bones that provide structure and support.
25. The discovery of penicillin was a significant milestone in medicine.
26. Caterpillars undergo remarkable transformations to become butterflies.
27. Numerous species in the rainforest cooperate for mutual survival.
28. Mutant organisms can exhibit characteristics that differ significantly from their parent species.
29. To be successful it's essential to focus on your goals and objectives.
30. The wolf is a predator that plays a crucial role in maintaining ecosystem balance.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. Species 2. Toxic 3. Skeleton 4. Venom 5. Reconstruction 6. Technology 7. Ambush
8. Ecosystem 9. Mechanic 10. Decline

Gap-Fill: 11. Skull 12. Visual 13. Transformations 14. Significant 15. Cooperate 16. Notable 17. Emerging
18. Collection 19. Predator 20. Inspired

Matching sentence: 1. Venom 2. Ecosystem 3. Technology 4. Skeleton 5. Significant 6. Transformations
7. Cooperate 8. Mutant 9. Focus 10. Predator

CATEGORY

1. Sci/Tech - LEVEL5

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1. amazon
2. ESL learning
3. esl news
4. giant centipede



5. grizzly bear
6. Level 5
7. snake

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