



Name: _____

Date: _____

THE AMAZON RAINFOREST

Read the text and answer the questions.

The Amazon is the world's largest rainforest. Over 400 billion individual trees grow there. They make up more than half of all the trees in the world's rainforests. A new study shows that over 11,000 species of trees grow in the Amazon. This is the most ever found in a single area. The scientists looked at the DNA of every tree in six million places in the forest. They also found that over 6,000 species of tree were only found in one place in the forest. The scientists say this shows how important it is to protect the whole of the Amazon. The study also showed that there are many more types of trees in the western part of the forest than in the eastern part. The lead scientist said: "The diversity of these forests is amazing. It's on a different scale to anywhere else we've looked. We think the reason for this is that the Amazon has been a safe place for trees and other plants for millions of years." There is a lot of concern about the future of the Amazon. Every year, an area the size of 50 football fields is destroyed. If the destruction continues, some scientists say there will be no forest left in 100 years' time. The loss of the Amazon would have a huge effect on the planet's climate because it absorbs a large amount of carbon dioxide.

- 1 How much area of the Amazon is destroyed every year?

- 2 What is the reason given by the lead scientist for the amazing diversity of forests in the Amazon?

- 3 How much area of the Amazon is destroyed every year?

- 4 What did scientists find when they looked at the DNA of every tree in the forest?

