

## Rainforest comprehension answers

**Section A** 1. How do we know that this is a diary? It includes dates/times, personal pronouns, informal tone, contracted words, mostly past tense, personal details and opinions, chronological order, emotive language.

2. Why did the diarist need to sleep in a hammock? The hammock will keep the diarist off the rainforest floor, where the snakes, spiders and insects crawl around at night.

3. What different modes of transport has the diarist used to get to the village? The diarist has used a plane, boat, 4x4 vehicle and their own legs to reach the village.

4. If large numbers of trees get cut down, how do you think this will affect the plants and animals? This will mean a loss of habitat for thousands of species who live in the trees and undergrowth. Plants will also be cleared to make way for grazing.

5. Why did the children need to use sign language and mime? They spoke different languages so the sign language allowed them to understand one another.

**Section B** 6. How much rain has there been today and how do you know this? There has been no rain today as the word precipitation refers to rain, sleet, snow or hail.

7. Why is the diarist worried about the boat sinking? The noise of the howler monkeys and the sight of the caiman reminded the diarist of how dangerous the rainforest can be. The diarist must have felt safer in the boat.

8. In what ways has the day been tough for the diarist? The diarist has had to cope with high humidity, torrential rainstorms and a 15km walk over tough terrain.

9. The tribe have had to learn how to use the plants as medicine. Why is this? The tribe are a very long way from a doctors surgery, chemist or hospital so they need to be able to heal themselves.

10. What is the purpose of the brackets? To insert additional information.

**Section C** 11. Why isn't the diarist at school? The diary entry was made in August, when school children are on holiday.

12. What does the word 'tributary' mean? A tributary is a river or stream that flows into a larger river or lake.

13. 'Nevertheless, the rainforest is a truly magnificent place.' Is this sentence a fact or opinion? An opinion

14. Why do you think the river is a good place to hunt for food? There will be fish, turtles and caiman living in the river, whilst other animals like capybara come to the river to drink.

15. Do you think the diarist plans to go back to the Amazon rainforest again? The phrase 'once in a lifetime' implies that they will not be doing it again..

**Section D** 16. Why do you think they are going into the rainforest? Various responses linked to evidence in the text. Dad obviously has a job to do and the word 'expedition' usually refers to a journey with a particular purpose, such as exploration or scientific research.

17. Why is there a change of tense within the entry for Tuesday 2nd August? The first two paragraphs of this section have been written in the past tense because the diarist is recalling

events from earlier in the day. The last paragraph of this section refers to events that are happening at the time of writing and also mentions future events.

18. What does the phrase 'pretty tough terrain' suggest about the walking conditions? It means that the walking conditions were difficult due to the physical features of the land.

19. The tribe are described as being 'self-sufficient'. What does this mean? This means that you need no outside help in satisfying your basic needs e.g. the river provides water, they hunt for their own food, they grow their own crops.

20. Why do you think the diarist wrote the word 'Bliss!' as a one word sentence? To emphasise just how lovely the air-conditioning felt after days in a hot and humid climate.

### Section A

Circle the correct answer.

The distance from London to Manaus is...8266km

Their guide was called...Matheus

On Wednesday 3rd August, the humidity was...82%

Dad spent a lot of time talking to the...Shaman

Dad thought the cure for many diseases and ailments could be found in the...plants

### Section B

Use the information in the text to decide whether these statements are true or false.

Dad calls Manaus 'the gateway to the Amazon rainforest' as it's the perfect place to begin our expedition.  True

The Amazon rainforest is so big that the UK and Ireland can fit into it 71 times!  False

They spotted plenty of caiman (a member of the monkey family) sunning themselves on the banks of the river.  False

The hammock will hopefully help the diarist avoid the many snakes, spiders and insects that wander around the forest floor.  True

Loggers and developers are wanting to cut down vast numbers of trees in the area.  True

### Section C

Date	temperature	Summary of events
Wed 3 <sup>rd</sup> Aug	29°C	Walked over 15km through rough terrain to reach the village of the Wajapi tribe.
Mon 1 <sup>st</sup> Aug	27 deg	Flew from London to Manaus. Stayed in a hotel overnight.
Fri 5 <sup>th</sup> Aug	30 deg	Spent morning playing with the children Travelled in 4x4 to Alter de Chao

Tues 2 <sup>nd</sup> Aug	29 deg	Travelled by boat to Alter do Chão to meet guide. Took 4x4 into rainforest where they set up camp.
Thur 4 <sup>th</sup> Aug	28 deg	The diarist learnt lots about the Wajapi people Dad was given some plant eggs to take home.

### Section D

FIND and COPY a word in the text that means:

These people are completely **self-sufficient**. They grow their own crops and eat the **edible** plants that grow naturally around them. The river also acts as an important lifeline. They use it for drinking water; as a means of **transport** and as a place to **hunt** fish, turtles, **capybara** and caiman. I admit to being a little disappointed by the lack of poisoned darts being used for hunting. Guns now appear to be the weapon of choice. This **remote** village must have some links with the outside world.

- to carry people from one place to another transport
- a mammal that looks like a giant guinea pig capybara
- needing no outside help to satisfy needs self-sufficient
- a place located far from main centres of population remote
- pursue and kill for sport or food hunt
- fit to be eaten edible