

Razing the rainforest

Teachers' notes

Lesson2: Razing Rainforests – are there any solutions?

Starter

The lesson starts with students watching a short media clip of **Senator Marina Silva** highlighting Brazil's plans for rainforest protection and reducing deforestation. Before watching the clip students should be told that they are going to be asked to evaluate the plan and while watching, should note down strategies they agree with and those they disagree with. A class discussion will then follow. It is important that students are encouraged to share their own opinions and recognise that there is no single solution to reducing deforestation and protecting rainforests.

Main

Working in small groups, students are given their brief: *devise an action plan to reduce deforestation, protect the Amazon rainforest and reduce the effects of climate change.*

In order to give them a few ideas, **two media clips** can be played which give possible suggestions. The first highlights the link between indigenous populations and reduced deforestation (video clip of **Simon Counsell** in his main speech 16.18 mins – to end of clip) and the second the idea of trading carbon credits (media clip of **Simon Counsell** in his main speech 12.18 – 12.53 mins).

The purpose of the clips is to give students ideas which they may choose to incorporate in their action plans or even develop further. They should of course include their own ideas. In order to get the most out of this activity, students' ideas need to be realistic and the teacher should spend time with each group helping them to review and discuss practicality issues. The teacher should also remind students about the importance of sustainability.

In the last 15 minutes of the task, students should put together their plan and highlight how their ideas will benefit the Amazon rainforest. It is likely that students will focus on the benefits for climate change, but they should also consider benefits such as sustainable economic growth and sustainable development.

Plenary

Student presentations can be as simple as addressing the class or more developed in the form of creating a PowerPoint presentation (a second lesson will be needed for this and then a third for the actual presentations) The focus should be on strategies and how they come together to create an action plan. Students should show how their action plan will benefit the Amazon rainforest. The teacher should encourage other members of the class to question the group presenting and once all action plans have been presented, groups should be asked to evaluate their plan in terms of how effective they think it will be. In order to bring the lesson together, students can be asked if they think an action plan is necessary and if so, who should it be created by?