



Cut out the arguments about deforestation. Sort the cards into two piles. One pile should be reasons for deforestation and the other should be reasons against deforestation.

Deforestation provides us with essential products, such as some of our paper and toilet paper.

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If deforestation continues at its current rate, there will be no rainforests on the planet in 100 years.

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In 2050, it is estimated that there will be 10 billion people on the planet. We need more space to live in and deforestation will give us that.

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There will be a negative impact on the environment because trees filter carbon dioxide out of the air that we breathe. If there are fewer trees, less oxygen will be produced.

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Deforestation makes room for more crops to be grown which can then be used to feed more people.

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Trees and plants absorb water from the ground and prevent the soil from becoming over-saturated. Therefore, deforestation will increase flooding.

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It provides job opportunities for those who work in a forest clearing.

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Indigenous people who live in the rainforests will lose their homes.

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New roads can be built which makes it easier for people to travel and to work. This will help to boost the economy of certain countries.

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Deforestation will make thousands of species of animals and plants that live in rainforests extinct.

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Deforestation makes more room for grazing animals which can then be used for food purposes and other useful products.

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Trees are a limited resource. If new trees are not planted, the products that they are used to make will one day run out.

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## Activity Sheet - Rainforest in trouble



Using the nine statements about the impact of deforestation below, fill out the diamond grid on the next page.

Local people's way of life is destroyed

There are fewer species of animals and plants

The animals' habitat is destroyed

The soil becomes dry and crops cannot grow

There is more carbon dioxide released into the atmosphere

Plants cannot grow anymore

People have to move from the rainforest to the city

New medicines might not be discovered from plants

Trees can't store carbon in their trunks, branches and roots

Which statement do you think was most important and why?

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## Activity Sheet - Rainforest in trouble

Put the statement that you think is the most important in the top box and the least important in the bottom box.

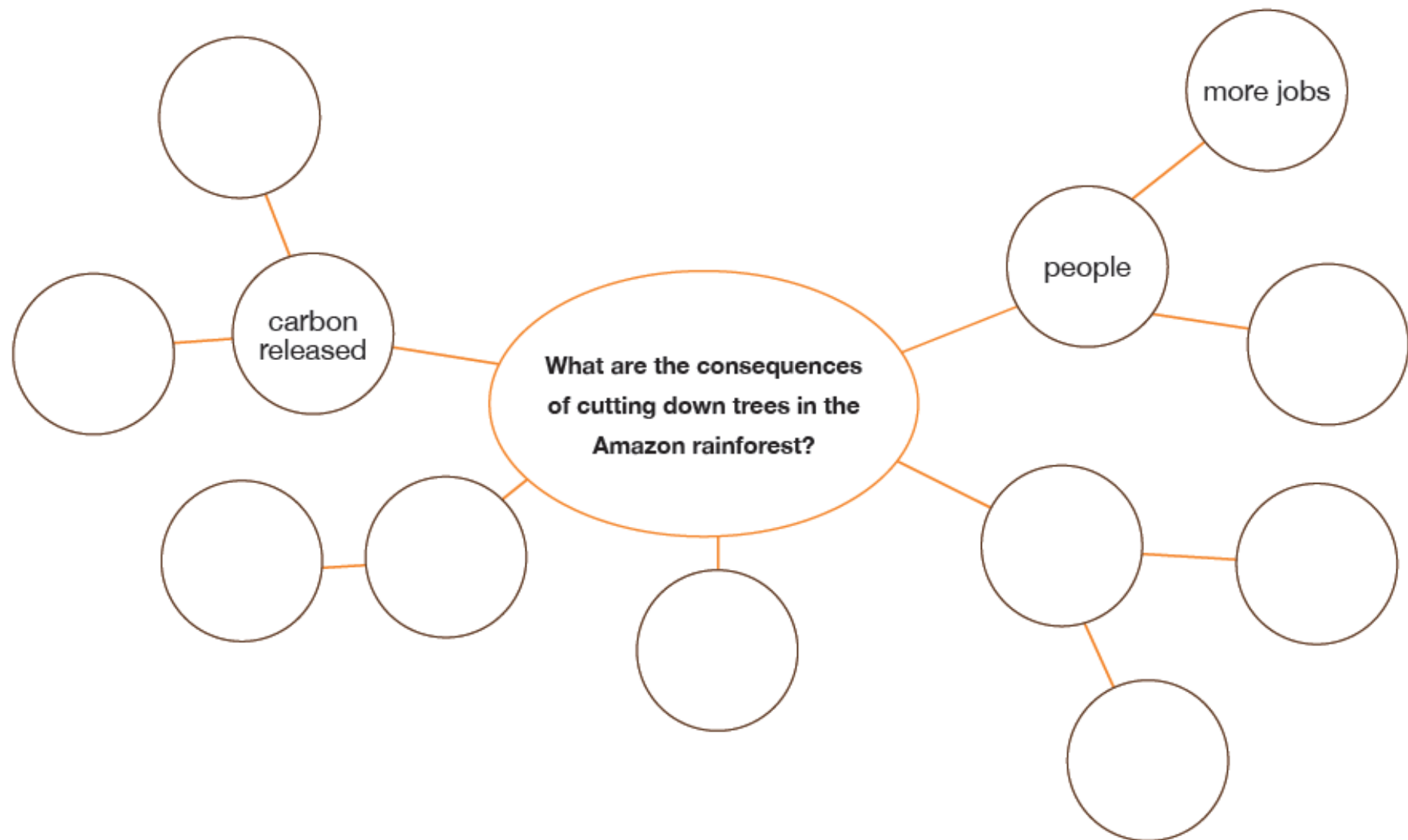
**Most important**

**Least important**



### Activity Sheet - What's happening in the rainforest?

How might cutting down trees and clearing land in the Amazon rainforest affect people, places or the climate? Use the photographs and deforestation factsheet to do some detective work. Now fill in the circles and draw more if you need to. Remember the consequences could be positive or negative.



Use the information you have already read and the next slide to help you.



# Deforestation in the Amazon rainforest

**Deforestation: The destruction of trees or forests on a massive scale.**

## Methods of clearing the rainforest:

- **Slash and burn** - trees are cleared and vegetation is burnt
- **Clear cutting** - complete removal of all trees in an area
- **Selective logging** - targeting specific valuable trees but leaving the rainforest intact



**Carbon emissions** - trees store carbon in their trunks, branches and roots which is released when they are cut down.

**Water cycle** - trees help return water vapour to the atmosphere which then falls as rain.

**Indigenous people** - the rainforest was once home to one million indigenous people. Now only 200,000 remain.

**Climate change** - deforestation contributes to global warming because trees are releasing carbon instead of storing it.

**Soil erosion** - without trees to protect it, soil in the rainforest is easily eroded. The soil loses its nutrients especially when it rains heavily.

**Loss of habitat** for millions of species like insects, birds, snakes, frogs and lizards.

**Medicine** - scientists have discovered that rainforest plants are sources for medicines to treat diseases like diabetes.

