

Moss Park key knowledge

- The Amazon is located in South America and South America is south of the Equator
- The Amazon crosses through several countries e.g. (Brazil, Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, Venezuela, Guyana, Suriname and French Guiana)
- The Amazon has a tropical climate and has two seasons
- The Amazon is home to about 50% of all life on Earth
- Approximately 30 million people live in the Amazon rainforest
- Deforestation is the large-scale clearing of forests which has negative effects on the environment



The Amazon has a tropical climate, which is typical in areas close to the equator (12° north or south of the equator). There are only two seasons: wet and dry. The region is undergoing change due to commercial development, particularly mining (for iron ore and gold), hydroelectric schemes, road building (the Trans-Amazon highway), logging and forest-clearance fires.

The Amazon region is globally significant, both ecologically and environmentally, but it is also an important comparison to many areas of the UK that are special and threatened. There are currently 1150 species and 65 habitats on the UK Biodiversity Action Plan, which is a published list of **conservation** priorities that are under threat because of their rarity and rate of decline.

Remember: weather refers to the conditions on a particular day, while climate is the average weather pattern of a place.

5 words to remember

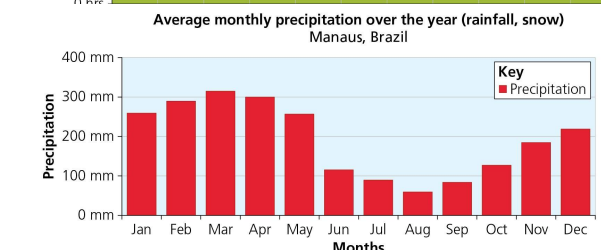
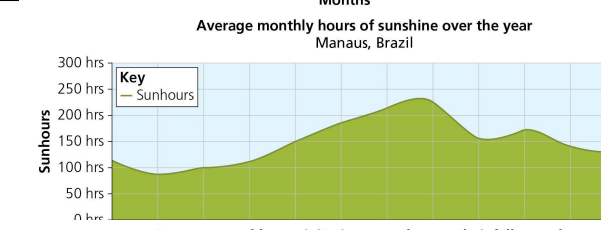
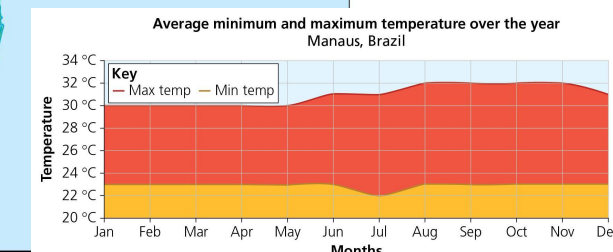
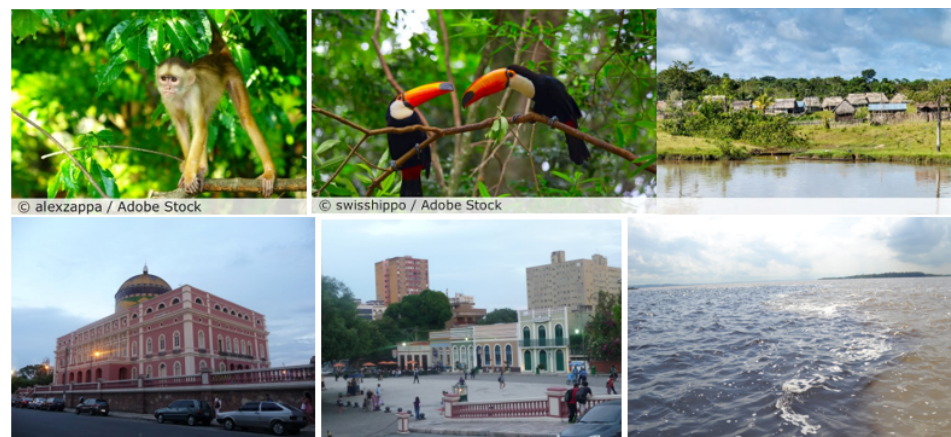
Amazon River: the river that runs through the basin; *rio* is the Portuguese name for 'river'

Amazon River basin: a vast region that spans nine countries, covering 40% of South America

conservation: people protecting areas so that landscapes and wildlife can thrive, rather than just survive

Portuguese: the language spoken in Brazil; people speak this language there because of settlers from Europe hundreds of years ago

river: a natural watercourse, flowing towards a sea, ocean or lake



Look at the three graphs and the photos of Brazil. The graphs show temperature, hours of sunshine and monthly rainfall. Write a 12-month diary of what you see through your window from your home in Manaus, and the weather you might encounter.