

Amazon rainforest fires are an international crisis

25th August, 2019



Fires are burning in the Amazon rainforest at an alarming rate. French President Emmanuel Macron has said the record number of fires is now an "international crisis". There has been an 85 per cent increase in fires in the Amazon this year. Mr Macron

said urgent action needed to be taken. He said the fires needed to be on top of the agenda at the G7 summit of world leaders in Biarritz. Macron tweeted about how serious he thought the fires were. He wrote: "Our house is burning. Literally. The Amazon rain forest - the lungs which produce 20% of our planet's oxygen - is on fire. It is an international crisis. Members of the G7 Summit, let's discuss this emergency in two days."

Other leaders agreed that they should discuss the fires. German Chancellor Angela Merkel has called the fires an "acute emergency". She said they were "shocking". She added that the fires didn't only threaten Brazil and its neighboring countries, but also affected the whole world. The UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson called the fires "not only heartbreaking," but "an international crisis". He added: "We stand ready to provide whatever help we can to bring them under control and help protect one of Earth's greatest wonders." UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said: "In the midst of the global climate crisis, we cannot afford more damage to a major source of oxygen and biodiversity. The Amazon must be protected."

Sources: bbc.com / thehill.com

Writing

Countries should be heavily fined for not putting out forest fires. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

fires / rainforest / number / crisis / agenda / world leaders / serious / lungs / oxygen / leaders / emergency / prime minister / heartbreaking / under control / biodiversity

True / False

- a) The article said fires in the Amazon have set alarm bells ringing. T / F
- b) Fires in the Amazon have increased by 85% this year. T / F
- c) The Amazon provides 30% of the world's oxygen. T / F
- d) France's president wants to talk about the fires at a summit for 3 days. T / F
- e) Germany's leader said the fires were shocking. T / F
- f) Germany's leader said the fires only affected South America. T / F
- g) The UK leader said the fires were heartbreaking. T / F
- h) The UN leader said we cannot afford more damage to biodiversity. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. alarming | a. severe |
| 2. crisis | b. really |
| 3. urgent | c. talk through |
| 4. literally | d. greatest |
| 5. discuss | e. worrying |
| 6. acute | f. endanger |
| 7. threaten | g. marvels |
| 8. heartbreaking | h. emergency |
| 9. wonders | i. upsetting |
| 10. major | j. serious |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) What did your country's leader say about the fires?
- c) Why was there more on the news about the Notre Dame fire?
- d) What will the climate be like in 50 years from now?
- e) How do the Amazon fires affect the whole world?
- f) What three adjectives best describe this story?
- g) How much of your country's forests are left?
- h) What questions would you like to ask Brazil's president?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Fires are burning in the Amazon rainforest | a. to be taken |
| 2. the record number | b. global climate crisis |
| 3. Mr Macron said urgent action needed | c. our planet's oxygen |
| 4. the fires needed to be on top | d. neighboring countries |
| 5. the lungs which produce 20% of | e. of fires |
| 6. Other leaders agreed that they should | f. wonders |
| 7. threaten Brazil and its | g. of the agenda |
| 8. We stand ready to provide whatever | h. at an alarming rate |
| 9. protect one of Earth's greatest | i. help we can |
| 10. In the midst of the | j. discuss the fires |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you know about the Amazon fires?
- How dangerous are the fires to the world?
- What do you know about the Amazon rainforest?
- What urgent action can be taken to put the fires out?
- Do you agree with the French President?
- How serious are the fires?
- What are your feelings about the Amazon rainforests?
- What advice do you have for the president of Brazil?

Spelling

- at an mirnalag rate
- an international sriscis
- on top of the aenadg
- Our house is burning, ytlrlaeil
- produce 20% of our planet's nxoegy
- let's discuss this mnegecrye
- Other leaders earegd
- nhrettea Brazil and its neighboring countries
- rpdiveo whatever help we can
- one of Earth's greatest ersnowd
- a major source of oxygen and dyvteioirbis
- The Amazon must be topetcedr

Answers – Synonym Match

1. e	2. h	3. j	4. b	5. c
6. a	7. f	8. i	9. g	10. d

Role Play

Role A – Wildfires

You think wildfires are the biggest causes of global warming. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least damaging of these (and why): cars, deforestation or inability to change.

Role B – Cars

You think cars the biggest causes of global warming. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least damaging of these (and why): wildfires, deforestation or inability to change.

Role C – Deforestation

You think deforestation is biggest cause of global warming. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least damaging of these (and why): cars, wildfires or inability to change.

Role D – Inability to Change

You think our inability to change is biggest cause of global warming. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least damaging of these (and why): cars, deforestation or wildfires.

Speaking – Global warming

Rank these with your partner. Put the biggest causes of global warming at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| • factory farming | • wildfires |
| • use of aerosols | • cars |
| • overfishing | • deforestation |
| • inability to change | • use of coal |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	F	d	F	e	T	f	F	g	T	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.