

THE ARTICLE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2107/210717-amazon-rainforest.html>

Environmental scientists have revealed shocking news that parts of the Amazon rainforest are emitting more carbon dioxide than they are absorbing. The scientists said the forest is now producing over a billion tons of CO₂ a year. They say the Amazon used to be a carbon "sink". This is where CO₂ was sucked up and converted into oxygen. However, it has now become a source of carbon dioxide. The forest is at risk of losing its moniker of being the lungs of the world. Researchers are predicting the rainforest will create more CO₂ at an accelerating rate in the future. The biggest culprits for the Amazon's flipping from sink to source are logging, deforestation and a growing number of forest fires.

The research on the Amazon's CO₂ emissions has been published in the journal "Nature". Researchers analysed 600 profiles of CO₂ and carbon monoxide emissions produced by fires at various sites in Brazil's Amazon between 2010 and 2018. They found that the fires produced about 1.5 billion tons of CO₂ a year, while forest growth removed just 0.5 billion tons. The researchers said the difference of one billion tons left in the atmosphere is equivalent to the annual emissions of Japan, which is the world's fifth-largest polluter. Professor Simon Lewis, from University College London, said: "The south-east Amazon sink-to-source story is yet another stark warning that climate impacts are accelerating."

Sources: <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2021/jul/14/amazon-rainforest-now-emitting-more-co2-than-it-absorbs>
<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/world/2021/07/14/amazon-rainforest-areas-put-out-more-carbon-dioxide-than-they-absorb/7971749002/>
<https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/07/14/biggest-story-world-right-now-humanity-has-flipped-amazon-carbon-sink-source>

VOCABULARY MATCHING

Paragraph 1

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| 1. revealed | a. A name. |
| 2. emitting | b. Changing to take the opposite side, opinion or situation. |
| 3. absorbing | c. Made previously unknown or secret information known to others. |
| 4. converted | d. Producing and sending out (something, especially gas, light or radiation). |
| 5. moniker | e. Changed from one thing into another. |
| 6. culprit | f. The cause of a problem or defect. |
| 7. flipping | g. Taking in or soaking up (energy or a liquid or other substance) by chemical or physical action. |

Paragraph 2

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| 8. journal | h. Unpleasantly or sharply clear. |
| 9. profile | i. A person or thing responsible for dirtying the environment with harmful or poisonous substances. |
| 10. emissions | j. A thing that is equal to or corresponds with another in value, amount, function, meaning, etc. |
| 11. equivalent | k. A newspaper or magazine that deals with a particular subject or professional activity. |
| 12. polluter | l. Increasing in amount, speed or extent. |
| 13. stark | m. A record of the characteristics of something. |
| 14. accelerating | n. Gases or radiation that come off something. |

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2107/210717-amazon-rainforest.html>

1. TRUE / FALSE: Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

1. The article says scientists revealed earth-shattering news. **T / F**
2. Parts of the Amazon produce over a billion tons of CO₂. **T / F**
3. The Amazon has lost its nickname of being the "lungs of the world". **T / F**
4. The article says agriculture is the biggest culprit in flipping the Amazon. **T / F**
5. The research is published in a journal called "Nature". **T / F**
6. Forest fires produced around 1.5 billion tons of CO₂ a year. **T / F**
7. Japan is the fifth-largest polluter in the world. **T / F**
8. A professor said the sink-to-source story was a stark warning. **T / F**

2. SYNONYM MATCH: (The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. shocking | a. assorted |
| 2. emitting | b. forecasting |
| 3. converted | c. offenders |
| 4. predicting | d. bleak |
| 5. culprits | e. appalling |
| 6. profiles | f. identical |
| 7. various | g. accounts |
| 8. equivalent | h. releasing |
| 9. stark | i. gaining momentum |
| 10. accelerating | j. changed |

3. PHRASE MATCH: (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. scientists have revealed | a. a billion tons |
| 2. emitting more | b. emissions of Japan |
| 3. producing over | c. of forest fires |
| 4. the lungs | d. journal "Nature" |
| 5. a growing number | e. carbon dioxide |
| 6. published in the | f. warning |
| 7. forest | g. shocking news |
| 8. equivalent to the annual | h. largest polluter |
| 9. the world's fifth- | i. of the world |
| 10. yet another stark | j. growth |

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2107/210717-amazon-rainforest.html>

- 1) Who revealed some shocking news?
 - a) Amazon tribes
 - b) environmental scientists
 - c) oxygen experts
 - d) CNN
- 2) What did scientists say the Amazon used to be?
 - a) tundra
 - b) a swamp
 - c) paradise
 - d) a carbon sink
- 3) What did scientists say the Amazon has now become?
 - a) a threat to our survival
 - b) a nightmare
 - c) a source of carbon
 - d) dangerous
- 4) What moniker does the article say the Amazon has?
 - a) the lungs of the world
 - b) the world's purifier
 - c) the green, green grass of home
 - d) a photosynthesis paradise
- 5) How many culprits does the article list as reasons for the Amazon's flip?
 - a) 5
 - b) 3
 - c) 1
 - d) 2
- 6) In which journal has the research been published?
 - a) Nature
 - b) Earth
 - c) Amazonia
 - d) Climate
- 7) What profiles did scientists look at besides CO2?
 - a) nitrogen
 - b) hydrogen peroxide
 - c) carbon monoxide
 - d) sodium nitrate
- 8) How much CO2 did forest growth remove?
 - a) 0.5 billion tons
 - b) 0.25 billion tons
 - c) 0.53 billion tons
 - d) 0.75 billion tons
- 9) What country is the world's fifth-largest polluter?
 - a) Ukraine
 - b) Brazil
 - c) Indonesia
 - d) Japan
- 10) What kind of warning did the professor say this news is?
 - a) local news
 - b) breaking news
 - c) a stark warning
 - d) regional news

THE AMAZON RAINFOREST DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. What did you think when you read the headline?
2. What images are in your mind when you hear the word 'Amazon'?
3. How important is the Amazon rainforest?
4. Why does the world just sit and watch the destruction of the Amazon?
5. How dangerous is CO2?
6. What are the dangers of the Amazon flipping?
7. What stresses do you think environmental scientists have?
8. How worried are you about the loss of rainforest?
9. What three adjectives best describe this story?
10. What advice do you have for loggers in the Amazon?

Amazon "flips" to be source of CO2 emissions – 17th July, 2021
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THE AMAZON RAINFOREST DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

11. Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
12. What do you think of when you hear the word 'rainforest'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. Should we all read the journal 'Nature'?
15. Is it possible to return forests to their original states?
16. What is your country doing to reduce CO2 emissions?
17. What are you doing to reduce CO2 emissions?
18. What will the environment be like in 100 years from now?
19. Do you think governments will heed this latest warning?
20. What questions would you like to ask the researchers?