Tropical Rainforests

“South America Unit”
What is a Rainforest?
Simply...a forest that receives more than 78 inches of rain in a year
Where are Rainforests?
We have 4 Major Rainforest Regions on Earth
1) Amazon Basin (South America)
2) Congo and Niger River Basin (Africa)
3) Mekong River Basin (SE Asia)
4) Islands of Oceania (South Pacific Is.)
Forests are generally found in a large belt around the equator...why?
Rainforest are centered around the Equator due to **HIGH** Temps, **TONS** of rain, and a **LONG** growing season!
Why do we need Rainforests?
Important because…

Rainforests are the World’s key storehouse to biodiversity!

...and that means?
biodiversity
Rainforests are...(speaking for BioDiversity)

Home to 50% of known plant and animal species
Rainforests…(speaking for BioDiversity)

1/2 of all medicines originated from plants and animals in R.F.
Rainforests are… (speaking for BioDiversity)

Less than 1% of plants/animals have been tested for medical values
Rainforests are… (speaking for BioDiversity)

Cover only 2% of the globe
Rainforests are... (Disappearing)

200,000 acres of rainforest are burned every day. That is more than 150 acres lost every minute of every day.
AMAZON DEFORESTATION
Extinction

Name first thing that comes to mind?
Dinosaur

FYI - gone
FOREVER
During Dinosaur Times...the earth lost 1 species every 1,000 year

We currently lose 140 species A DAY!
(this is mainly due to current R.F. destruction rates)
WHY???

1) Cattle Ranches (Beef)
2) Commercial Logging (Wood/Paper)
3) Plantations for Cash Crops (Fruit)
4) Growing illegal drugs (Cocaine)
5) Mining Operations and…
# 6
TO SAVE OUR WAY OF LIFE

Who are the Stakeholders?