**Big Ideas- Brazil**

Exciting books:





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| **canopy** | The **canopy**, which may be over 30 m above the ground, is made up of the overlapping branches and leaves of rainforest trees. |
| **emergent layer** | The emergent layer is the name given to the tops of trees that poke up above the rainforest canopy. |
| **understory** | The understory layer is a tangle of shrubs, young trees, saplings, palms and vines. It is hot and damp here and the air is very still. |
| **deforestation** | When forests are cut down and the area is permanently cleared for another use.  |
| **endangered** | An endangered species is a species which has been categorized as very likely to become extinct. |
| **indigenous** | Indigenous people or things belong to the country in which they are found |
| **biomes** | Biomes are distinct biological communities that have formed in response to a shared physical climate. |
| **temperate** | Relating to a region or climate characterized by mild temperatures. |
| **extinction** | The extinction of a species of animal or plant is the death of all its remaining living members. |
| **destruction** | The act of destroying something. |
| **biodiversity** | Variety of plant and animal life in a particular habitat, a high level of which is usually considered to be important and desirable. |

Important facts to know:

* Only around 6% of the Earth’s land surface is rainforest – but about half of all animal and plant species live there.
* It can take ten minutes for a falling raindrop to travel from a rainforest’s thick canopy to the floor.
* The Amazon rainforest in South America is so big that if it were a country, it would be the ninth biggest in the world.



