

## Lesson Plan

### Indigenous Influence

**Book:** *Protecting the Amazon Rainforest*

**Series:** Saving Earth's Biomes

**Level:** Navigator

### Objective

To help students practice organizing information and writing clear explanatory paragraphs.

### Supplies

- *Protecting the Amazon Rainforest* book
- Paper and pencils

### Before the Activity

Read *Protecting the Amazon Rainforest* as a class, or assign it to students to read on their own.

### Activity

*Protecting the Amazon Rainforest* describes the importance of the rainforest, the threats it faces, and the efforts people and groups are making to protect it. Indigenous tribes in particular are highlighted as being at the forefront of protective efforts.

Students should reread the text and look for evidence of how local tribes are protecting the rainforest. Then, students should write an informative paragraph that explains the connection of indigenous tribes with the rainforest. Students' paragraphs should include the following:

- a clear topic sentence that states the student's main point
- three sentences that provide support for the student's point
- an original concluding sentence that restates the student's point

### Evaluation

Use the following sample paragraph to award students up to 6 points:

- 1 point for a clear topic sentence
- 1 point each for three supporting sentences
- 1 point for an original concluding sentence
- 1 point for writing that is relatively free of grammatical and spelling errors

### Sample Paragraph:

Indigenous tribes have been caretakers of the Amazon rainforest for thousands of years, and they continue to lead many efforts to protect the Amazon. For example, more than 400 different groups are working together to create a protected reserve the size of Mexico. Indigenous tribes also patrol existing reserves to ensure people are not logging illegally. And through giving ecotours and gathering and selling natural rainforest goods, they raise awareness of the rainforest. Through their efforts, indigenous tribes are protecting the Amazon.

### Standards

This lesson may be used to address the Common Core State Standards' writing standards, grade 4 (W 4.2, 4.4), and reading standards for informational texts, grade 4 (RI 4.2, 4.8).