

lesson
3

The Yanomami of the Amazon



Before You Read

Look at the picture. Read the sentences.
Check (✓) *True*, *False*, or *Don't Know*.

- | | True | False | Don't Know |
|--|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. The Yanomami live in a tropical forest. | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| 2. The Yanomami are farmers. | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| 3. Most Yanomami men have beards. | <input type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |



3 The Yanomami of the Amazon



The Yanomami people live near the Amazon River in Venezuela and Brazil. They live in the tropical forest far away from other people. There are now **perhaps** 27,000 Yanomami in this **area**. Before **outsiders** first visited them, they knew nothing about other people in South America, about the government, or about modern life. They did not know that they lived in Brazil or Venezuela. They lived in their own world.

maybe

The Yanomami are hunters and farmers. They hunt over a large area. They grow their own crops and medicine in large gardens. The Yanomami are also deeply religious. For them, the natural world and the **spiritual** world are one.

In the 1980s, **miners** found gold on Yanomami land. Soon thousands of miners, **loggers**, and cattle farmers were using the land. The **noise** from the outsiders' machines and airplanes **frightened** the Yanomami. The mining companies **polluted** the water in the rivers. The loggers cut down the forests. The outsiders also brought new diseases to the area. In just seven years, 20% of the Yanomami people **died**.

people who cut down trees as their job

loud sounds

made afraid

made dirty

In 1992, Brazil and Venezuela made the Yanomami land into a park. No one can mine for gold or cut trees on this land. The government said that the land was for the Yanomami people, not for the miners and loggers. Unfortunately, it was difficult to keep the miners and loggers out of the Yanomami land. In 1993, some gold miners tried to **destroy** a Yanomami village, and they killed 16 people.

Today the Yanomami are working to protect their land and traditions. They have their own school. They are recording their language and history. They also want to study and learn good ways to use their land. They do not want to live without trees and clean water. They say they want **progress**, but without destruction.



a Vocabulary

Put the right word in each blank. The sentences are from the text.

perhaps	miners	died	area
spiritual	noise	outsiders	frightened
progress	polluted	loggers	destroy

1. Soon thousands of miners, Loggers, and cattle farmers were using the land.
2. For them, the natural world and the Espiritual world are one.
3. In 1993, some gold miners tried to Destroy a Yanomami village, and they killed 16 people.
4. Before outsiders first visited them, they knew nothing about other people in South America.
5. The mining companies Polluted the water in their rivers.
6. They say they want progress, but without destruction.
7. The ^{noise} from the outsiders' machines and airplanes frightened the Yanomami.
8. In just seven years, 20% of the Yanomami people Died.
9. There are now Perhaps 27,000 Yanomami in this area.
10. In the 1980s, Miners found gold on Yanomami land.

b Vocabulary: New Context

Put the right word in each blank. These are new sentences for words in the text.

perhaps	mining	die	area
spirits	noisy	outsider	frighten
progress	pollution	logging	destroyed

1. Mining companies dig for metals in the ground.
2. Do large animals frighten you?
3. Can you study in a noisy room?
4. Too many people die each year from smoking cigarettes.
5. They Destroyed the papers by burning them.
6. Air Pollution is becoming a serious problem.
7. Logging companies cut down trees and sell the wood.



8. The Pacific Ocean covers a very large area.
9. For some people, there are spirits in trees and rivers.
10. We made a lot of Progress in class today. We completed 20 pages in the book!
11. perhaps she is sick. I don't know. Outsider
12. For the first few months in a new city, she felt like an Outsider.
Then she began to make some friends.

C Vocabulary Review

Match each word in Column A with the word or phrase from Column B that means the opposite. Write the letter on the line following the word in Column A.

Column A

1. terrible G
2. a few c
3. alive b
4. began e
5. over h
6. wet a
7. varied i
8. more d
9. future j
10. alone f

Column B

- a. dry g
- b. dead c
- c. a lot b
- d. less e
- e. stopped i
- f. together a
- g. wonderful j
- h. under d
- i. the same j
- j. past f

d Questions

The asterisk (*) means you have to think of the answer. You cannot find it in the text.

1. Where do the Yanomami live? In the Amazonas
2. About how many Yanomami are there? 27,000
- *3. Why didn't the Yanomami know about other people? They lived in their own
- *4. What do the Yanomami eat? Fruit, animals and vegetables.
- *5. Name some changes in the daily lives of these people.
They have their own schools and history, they want progress without destruction



6. What is killing the Yanomami? For the gold.
7. What did Brazil and Venezuela do for the Yanomami? in 1992 they create a
8. What are the Yanomami doing to help themselves? They are studying.
- *9. What do you think will happen to the Yanomami? Why?
They will do a really big community where they can learn different things about themselves and about the outside.

e Comprehension: True/False/No Information

Write T if the sentence is true. Write F if the sentence is false. Write NI if there is no information about the sentence in the text.

- T 1. The Yanomami live in a tropical forest.
- T 2. The Venezuelan and Brazilian governments want to help the Yanomami.
- T 3. Today the Yanomami know that they live in what we call South America.
- F 4. The Yanomami are nomads.
- T 5. The natural world is important to the Yanomami.
- T 6. They eat plants and animals.
- F 7. The Yanomami tried to help the miners and loggers.
- T 8. Outsiders destroyed much of the Yanomami land.
- T 9. The Yanomami are afraid of new things.
- F 10. Mining companies are opening schools for the Yanomami.

f Main Idea

Circle the number of the main idea of the text.

1. The Yanomami are working to protect their land. ✓
2. The Yanomami live in the tropical forest near the Amazon River, but they know nothing about other South Americans.
3. The Yanomami are very religious.

1. the yanomani are working to protect their land.

