



READING COMPREHENSION

1- Read the article.

The Amazing Amazon

The Amazon Rainforest is the largest rainforest in the world. It covers 7,000,000 square kilometres and stretches across seven countries. Over half of the planet's rainforest is in the Amazon. It does something very important. The plants take in carbon dioxide and produce oxygen. In this way they clean the atmosphere, because carbon dioxide increases pollution and global warming.

The Amazon is part of the reason we are able to breathe fresh air.

Doctors are very interested in the plants of the Amazon. This is because for thousands of years, the people living there used plants as medicine. For instance, there are plants that can lower a high temperature and ones that can help with headaches, toothaches and muscle pains. The Amazon people who have knowledge of these plants are called 'medicine men'.

Scientists have identified plants in the Amazon that can treat diseases, including malaria. Researchers from Brazil are looking for a cure for cancer in the Amazon. The work is difficult because there are so many plant species to research. They test each one to find out if they have medicinal properties. This takes a long time and is very detailed work. Another difficulty is that the rainforests are being cut down. It means that many plants are lost and animals lose their homes. Many of them die as a result. If people continue to destroy the rainforest, we will lose our chance to discover valuable new medicines.

