

## Deforestation

**Spatial Pattern:** The spatial pattern of deforestation follows the linear pattern of tropical forests between the tropics where the deforested areas are mostly on the peripheries of the major areas of rainforest. When examined closely the peripheral pattern shows pockets of deforestation with some areas forming inroads into the forest like corridors. This pattern can be seen in the Amazon where distinct corridors extend from the southern and eastern edges of the forest into the interior... In Central Africa the linear pattern is made up of concentrations of deforestation especially in Western Africa and Ethiopia. In South East Asia deforestation is widespread showing both concentrations in parts of Malaysia and large pockets in Indonesia.

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**Causes for the spatial Pattern:** The pattern of deforestation is caused by people's access to the forest. The corridor pattern common in the Amazon follows roads that are used by logging companies to take the logging equipment in and transport the logs out of the forest... The Trans-Amazon Highway forms one of the major corridors of deforestation, it is about 4,000 km long and goes from ...The logging companies use heavy equipment which needs roads that won't cause them to get bogged down when there is heavy rain...

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Most of the settlers in the forest stay close to the roads where they clear small areas for farming, continuing the corridor pattern. These settlers lack the finances or machinery to develop roads to alter this pattern. These small holders are often given government grants, this is the case in Brazil... Cheap land and government subsidies are creating increasing deforestation especially in Southern Brazil... As population grows areas for settlement become limited and ... Increasing need for food production ... expansion of infrastructure also led to deforestation.

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If burning is used as the means of deforestation this creates larger concentrations and pockets of deforestation which can be seen in the southern Amazon, Malaysia and Indonesia. This is very common when ranchers extend their farms in to bordering forest. The pockets of deforested land in Malaysia and Indonesia is mostly used for plantations.

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Changing forest land to agriculture is the primary cause for deforestation in the Amazon and in South East Asia. Deforestation is caused by the rising demand for a range of crops like palm oil, soy beans, cocoa, coffee etc.

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The main cause of the concentrations in Eastern and Central Africa is a result of shifting cultivation. This concentration is often the result of population growth and people returning to cultivate land too soon...

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The significance of deforestation for people was explained in detail including discussion of a range of ideas from hardships faced by indigenous people through to economic benefits for individuals and communities.