

SCIENCE / GEOGRAPHY / ENGLISH · Y4–Y6

# The Rainforest Debate

A structured drama for Y4–Y6

## Characters and viewpoints

8 speaking parts

- CHAIR — runs the debate (teacher or confident pupil)
- FARMER — wants to clear land for crops to feed family
- LOGGING COMPANY — wants timber for profit
- INDIGENOUS ELDER — rainforest is home and history
- SCIENTIST — studies biodiversity and warns of extinction
- GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL — wants economic development
- CLIMATE ACTIVIST — warns of climate change impact
- TOURIST — wants rainforest preserved for future generations
- After the script: class votes on what should happen to the forest



### The script

CHAIR: Welcome to the Amazon Forest Council. Today we debate the future of this rainforest. Every voice here matters. Let us begin. FARMER: I've worked this land my whole life. My children are hungry. If I don't clear a few acres to grow crops, how do I feed them? I have no other option. LOGGING COMPANY: This forest has hundreds of millions of trees. We use a tiny fraction. The timber creates jobs, builds homes, earns money for the whole country. INDIGENOUS ELDER: I am not from this forest. I am this forest. My people have lived here for ten thousand years. You cannot put a price on what you are destroying. When the trees go, the rivers dry. When the rivers dry, we die. SCIENTIST: The Amazon contains more species of plants and animals than anywhere else on Earth. We are losing hundreds of species a year before we even know what they are. Some of them could cure diseases. All of them matter. GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL: A country with hungry people cannot afford to think only about trees. Development now means a better future for everyone. CLIMATE ACTIVIST: The Amazon absorbs billions of tonnes of carbon dioxide every year. Destroying it doesn't just harm the Amazon — it harms the entire planet. Everyone in this room. Everyone's children. TOURIST: I travelled thousands of miles to see this place. My family did too. People pay to experience something irreplaceable. Tourism creates jobs — without cutting a single tree. CHAIR: [to the class] We have heard every side. Now the decision belongs to you.

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### After the debate — discussion

1. Whose argument did you find most convincing? Why?
2. Is it possible to protect the rainforest AND develop the country?
3. Whose point of view do you think gets heard least in the real world?

