

**What Will You Breathe Once the Oxygen Is Gone?;
Classroom Connect's AmazonQuest Takes Students on a Voyage of Discovery
And Empowerment as They Attempt to Unravel the Mysteries Behind Rainforest
Depletion**

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The Amazon is the world's largest rainforest region and a key element in worldwide oxygen manufacturing: true or false? An area the size of Belgium disappeared from the Amazon rainforest this past year: true or false? During AmazonQuest(TM), the latest up-close and student-directed investigation of historic and scientific world mysteries from Classroom Connect, K-12 students across the nation will explore the answers to these questions, and address other tough issues affecting this untamed and unique geographic area, the Amazon.

From September 24, 2001 to October 26, 2001, Classroom Connect's Quest Expedition Team, led once again by the duo of world-renowned adventurer Dan Buettner and team anthropologist Dr. John Fox, will tackle one issue facing the rainforest per week under the direction of student explorers who participate through The Quest Channel(TM) Web site (www.classroom.com). The Quest Expedition Team will load up canoes and a "mother ship" of supplies and technology to explore a pristine, intact rainforest in Madre de Dios in southeastern Peru, and then continue traveling along the Ucayali River to Pucallpa and Iquitos, regions now in peril due to deforestation and other environmental hazards.

As the journey gets underway, the Quest team will introduce the AmazonQuest audience to a variety of exquisite flora and fauna never before seen up close by the majority of participating students. The team will encounter rare and endangered animals and explore the impact of commercial and residential development and deforestation on their continued survival. In addition, the Quest team will introduce the students to expert scientists and anthropologists in the U.S. and abroad, as well as Amazonian people who struggle to maintain their long-standing traditions and lifestyle.

"AmazonQuest may prove to be our toughest Quest yet," said Buettner, vice president of adventure learning for Classroom Connect. "From poisonous bullet ants to the world's largest snakes, we hope to introduce students to some of the Amazon region's incredibly rare species of animals and plants, while honing in on the mystery behind the vanishing rainforest and the impact its demise may have on the world we know."

Adding to the unique educational experience offered through Classroom Connect's The Quest Channel, students will have a chance to participate in weekly "Make a Difference" projects that inspire students to apply what they learned during the Quest to make a difference in their own communities. Possible themes to be covered by the Make a Difference program include: global warming, endangered species, indigenous land rights, sustainable development, ecotourism, and natural gas exploration and extraction.

The Amazon region is home to two million insect species, 200,000 plants, 4,000 species of fish (more than the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans combined) and more than 800 mammals, many of which are found nowhere else in the world. The Amazon River runs

from the south to northeast and is said to be 4,080 miles long, just shy of the Nile's length of 4,145 miles. Except near its mouth, the Amazon watershed constitutes one of the most thinly populated regions in the world.

About The Quest Channel

AmazonQuest can be found on Classroom Connect's The Quest Channel. The Quest Channel provides access to two live Quests a year, as well as previous Quests, which to date include AfricaQuest, GalapagosQuest, AsiaQuest, AmericaQuest, IslandQuest, AustraliaQuest and MayaQuest. Students benefit from ongoing opportunities throughout the year to interact with the Quest Expedition Team and to collaborate with other students around the world. Educators enjoy the flexibility of picking and choosing components of any Quest that best fit a given curriculum, while knowing that the Quests meet national and state standards in history, geography, language arts, reading, mathematics, science, technology and life work skills.

About Classroom Connect

Classroom Connect, Inc. is a leading provider of professional learning and classroom learning resources that foster successful use of the Internet in K-12 education. Headquartered in Brisbane, CA, with offices in El Segundo, CA, Minneapolis, MN and Abilene, TX, Classroom Connect has more than 170 employees. Its primary product brands include: Connected University(TM) (online professional development); Classroom Today(TM) (online classroom curriculum); The Quest Channel(TM) (online adventure learning expeditions); Connected Conferences(TM) (live, nationwide events); Connected Workshops(TM) (on-site seminars); and Classroom Connect Newsletter(TM) (monthly Internet education journal). Its partners include some of the nation's most respected organizations, including the American Museum of Natural History, the Library of Congress and NASA. For more information about Classroom Connect, visit the company's Web site at www.classroom.com.

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