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Amazon Trivia

- The Amazon River in South America flows about 4,000 miles from the Andes in Peru across northern Brazil into the Atlantic Ocean.
- Riverboats play a large role in the Amazon economy. In the Amazon, boats are like automobiles and rivers are like highways. Many field researchers, eco-tourists and local people use them to travel.
- During the rainy season the river floods an area the size of California, allowing boats to reach places they couldn't before.
- Piranhas live on a diet of fruits, other fish and dead animals. There are 30 species of piranhas in the Amazon, but none have humans on their menu.
- Stingrays live in the shallow waters near sandy banks. Although they're large and colorful they're often hard to spot because they camouflage themselves under a layer of sand.
- Electric eels can generate five times the energy in a household outlet. They live in the murky streams and ponds of the Amazon and feed mainly on fish.
- Anacondas live in swamps, marshes, and slow-moving streams of the Amazon. They can grow up to 18 feet long and feed on a diet of wild pigs, deer, caimans and even jaguars. They capture their prey by biting and squeezing the animal until it asphyxiates.
- Black caimans (alligator-type animals) thrive in the millions. They live on a diet of fishes like catfish and piranhas that share its ecosystem.
- Piraibas, the largest of the catfish in the Amazon, grow to 300 pounds. There are more than 1,200 species of catfish in the Amazon; each has evolved unique adaptations to its ecosystem.
- The candirú, a small freshwater catfish, swims into the gills of larger fish and cuts through their veins with its sharply hooked teeth. It feeds on the blood of the other fish.