

From Steaming Swamp to Blanket Bog

An exhibition of photographs taken on fieldwork in the Peruvian Amazon

Worksheet (Levels 1 and 2)

As you go round the exhibition, see if you can find out the answers to the questions below. The picture and caption where you can find out the answer is written in brackets, but to answer some of them you'll need to use your own knowledge, have a guess or talk it over with a friend.

You can find the answers to the questions below (and all of the pictures) on the exhibition website: <https://peatlands.wp.st-andrews.ac.uk/educational-materials/>, by clicking on the document, *Levels 1 & 2 Worksheet – Answers*.

- 1) What is peat made of? (1)
- 2) Is peat living, non-living or once-living? Talk to someone about the answer, it may not be obvious.
- 3) This is a palm tree is locally known as *aguaje* (pronounced ag-wa-he) and it is common in the peatlands of the Amazon region in Peru. Can you name the different parts by matching up the words to the correct parts in the pictures?



Leaves

Trunk or stem

Dead leaves

Fruit



- 4) What does this palm (and all other plants) need in order to grow?

- 5) How many species of tree are there in a typical palm swamp? Or, as a scientist might say, how biodiverse is it? (3)
- 6) These palms live in very wet soils, sometimes even in pools of water. Name one adaptation which helps them to survive these conditions. (4)
- 7) Have you spotted the lizard? What is it called? (11)
- 8) What can we use to find out how the plants growing on the peatland have changed over the few thousand years? (15, 16)
- 9) And what do we use to measure palm tree height? (18)
- 10) What instrument do we use to measure rainfall? (21)
- 11) What is the most usual way to harvest fruits of the *aguaje* palm? (22)
- 12) What are the possible problems with this way of harvesting fruit? (22)
- 13) How do many children in Amazon villages get to school if there is no school in their own village? (25)
- 14) What do the women in indigenous Urarina villages use to colour or dye the thread they make from palm trees? (28)

15) What is this thread used to make? (30)

16) What is transported in the long metal tubes shown in picture number 31? (31)

17) There are many activities going on in the picture of the village Nuevo Pandora. Can you identify some of them and write them down? (32)

18) Have visited a peatland or a peat bog? Can you describe what the ground felt like?

19) What do you think are the main threats to peatlands, their ecosystems and the people who live there, now and in the future?

20) Why do you think peatlands in the Amazon region but also in other places around the world, such as Scotland, are important to protect? (1, 33)