

Timeline of Development in the Brazilian Rainforest

1822

Brazil declares independence from Portugal.

1870

Workers from northeastern Brazil begin to migrate to the rainforest to become rubber tappers.

**1960**

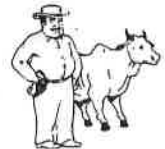
Two large roads are built in the rainforest, signifying the start of government-led development.

1962

The government creates the first land reserve for native Amazonians.

1966

The government begins providing tax incentives to ranchers to raise cattle in the rainforest.

**1970**

The government begins providing free land for landless peasants willing to become settlers in the rainforest.

1980

Native Amazonians organize nationally, to protect their land. A few land reserves are created over the next decade.

**1985**

Rubber tappers organize nationally, and their first land reserve is created three years later.

Landless peasants organize nationally to fight for redistribution of land throughout Brazil so that poor people are not forced to move to the Amazon as settlers.

1988

Chico Mendes, a famous rubber-tapper spokesperson, is assassinated by a rancher, increasing worldwide interest in Brazil's policies in the rainforest.

1989

The government names José Lutzenberger, a famous Brazilian environmentalist, as environmental minister. He is fired three years later for criticizing the government for corruption.

Summary of Rainforest Conference Interest Groups

Directions: Listed below are the interest groups participating in the conference on the fate of the Brazilian rainforest. For each, there is a summary of who they are and how they think the rainforest should be used. Use this information to help you prepare for the conference.



Environmentalists

Environmentalists are people from various professions (scientists, scholars, lawyers, business leaders, church groups) working to slow the deforestation of the Amazon rainforest. They want to establish rainforest land reserves and develop the Amazon more carefully to prevent rapid environmental destruction.



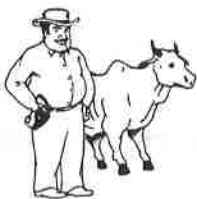
Government Leaders

The government began encouraging development of the rainforest in the 1960s. Government leaders are in charge of developing and building roads, dams, and airstrips, as well as encouraging people to settle the Brazilian rainforest. They want to continue developing the rainforest but also balance the needs of all groups.



Native Amazonians

Native Amazonians (Indians) have lived in the Brazilian rainforest for thousands of years. They want to defend their traditional land against rubber tappers, ranchers, and settlers. They want the government to set aside land reserves for them.



Ranchers

Cattle ranchers started coming to the rainforest in the 1960s at the encouragement of the government, which gave them free land to settle in the Amazon rainforest. Ranchers want to defend their large land holdings—used for raising cattle—against rubber tappers, native Amazonians, environmentalists, and settlers who also claim the land.



Rubber Tappers

Rubber tappers have made a living in the Amazon rainforest for many generations by tapping rubber from wild rubber trees. Since the 1960s, they have defended their land claims against settlers and especially ranchers. They want the government to set aside land reserves for common use by rubber-tapper communities.



Settlers

Settlers are formerly landless people who came to the Amazon rainforest, starting in the 1960s, to claim small plots of land for farming. They want to defend their land against native Amazonians, rubber tappers, and ranchers who also claim it.