

# Ashley's Amazon Adventure: Design, Create, and Protect!

## Materials You'll Need, Explorer!

- Paper (plain and colored if you have it!)
- Pencils, crayons, markers, or colored pencils
- Modeling clay or play-dough (OR recycled materials like cardboard tubes, small boxes, fabric scraps, plus glue/tape)
- Child-safe scissors
- Glue or tape
- Access to the internet (with a grown-up's help for safe searching on sites like National Geographic Kids, Kiddle, or educational YouTube channels)
- Your Adventure Journal (a notebook)

## Welcome, Super Explorer Ashley!

Today, you're going on an amazing expedition deep into the heart of the Amazon Rainforest and its mighty river! The Amazon is Earth's largest rainforest and is home to so many incredible animals and plants. Get ready to use your creativity and smarts to explore this wonderful place.

## Part 1: Dive into the Amazon - Research & Discovery (30-45 minutes)

Your first mission, should you choose to accept it, is to become an Amazon expert! With a grown-up's help, use the internet to discover:

1. **Three Super Interesting Facts** about the Amazon River or Rainforest. Write them down in your Adventure Journal.
2. **Five Amazing Animals** that live in or near the Amazon River. List them and maybe draw a quick sketch of one that catches your eye! Think about what makes them special.

*Explorer Tip: What's the longest river? What's unique about the animals there? Are there pink dolphins? Giant water lilies?*

## Part 2: Creative Creature Design Challenge! (45-60 minutes)

Now that you know a bit about the Amazon, it's time to get creative! Your challenge is to:

**Design your own unique Amazonian animal OR create a detailed model/drawing of a real one.**

- If you design a NEW animal: What does it look like? What does it eat? How does it move? Most importantly, what special features (adaptations) help it survive in the Amazon (e.g., camouflage, webbed feet, long beak)? Give it a cool name!
- If you choose a REAL animal: Pick one of your favorites from your research. Create a model using clay/play-dough or recycled materials, or draw it in detail. Be sure to show off at least two of its amazing adaptations (like the jaguar's spots for camouflage or the sloth's claws for hanging).

In your Adventure Journal, describe your animal and its special adaptations. Why are these adaptations important in the Amazon?

### **Part 3: A Day in the Life - Amazon Story Time! (30-45 minutes)**

Imagine you are an animal living in the Amazon River or the rainforest around it. What would a day be like for you?

**Your mission: Create a short story OR a comic strip (3-6 panels) about 'A Day in the Life' of your chosen (or created) Amazonian animal.**

- Think about: Where do you sleep? What do you eat for breakfast? What dangers might you face? What cool things do you see or do? Do you swim, fly, or climb?
- Try to include some of the facts you learned or the adaptations you designed/researched.

This is your chance to be a storyteller! Have fun with it.

### **Part 4: Be an Amazon Guardian - Problem Solving! (30 minutes)**

The Amazon Rainforest and River are very important, but they face some challenges, like deforestation (trees being cut down) or pollution. Even young explorers like you can come up with brilliant ideas to help!

**Your challenge:**

1. Think about one problem facing the Amazon River or rainforest (you can do a quick search with a grown-up for ideas like 'problems facing the Amazon rainforest for kids').
2. In your Adventure Journal, write down the problem.
3. Then, brainstorm and draw or write about one creative idea or invention that could help solve this problem or protect the Amazon. It could be a new rule, a cool machine, or a way to teach others!

*Explorer Tip: No idea is too small or too silly when you're brainstorming! How could we help the animals, the river, or the trees?*

### **Part 5: Explorer's Reflection (10-15 minutes)**

Wow, Ashley, you've done so much! Before we finish our expedition, let's think about our adventure:

- What was the most interesting thing you learned about the Amazon today?
- Which part of the lesson was your favorite (designing, storytelling, or problem-solving)? Why?
- Why do you think it's important to protect places like the Amazon River?

You can write down your answers or just talk about them.

### **Well Done, Super Explorer Ashley!**

You've successfully completed your Amazon Adventure! You've shown amazing creativity, curiosity, and care for our planet. Keep exploring and wondering about the amazing world around you!