

Lost city found in Amazon

In 2002, a Finnish archaeologist Alceu Ranzi was flying over the Amazon when suddenly he came across geometric shapes dug into the earth. The shapes made up a series of trenches topped by banks and connected by a network of straight roads. Ranzi then contacted a historian and archaeologist Martti Parssinen who said, "He realised they weren't natural structures and must have been made by indigenous people."

Ironically, Ranzi was rebuffed by scientists in the United States. "They just didn't believe him," said Parssinen. Because of other work he had done in the area Parssinen realised this call could be something very important. He was excited by it. The two flew over the areas Ranzi had noticed. "When I saw the shapes then, it was an amazing feeling. All the old theories said this area of the Amazon could only ever have supported hunters and collectors. No one believed that a large civilisation could have existed there. We realised that this discovery could change history."

In 2003, they published their report then waited three years to start excavating the area. They used Google Earth satellite images in pinpointing the exact sites. This made their job easier than previous archaeological work in the region. The geometric shapes discovered are thought to be the remains of bridges, roads, moats and squares: the basis for a civilisation spanning 155 miles.

Now thanks to Google Earth the lost city of El Dorado (Spanish for *the Golden One*), as it is known, may have been found. Their find is, in a word, impressive. The implications of the discovery are wide-ranging. "This really is the beginning of a reassessment of history. We are only beginning to understand Amazonia," said Parssinen adding, "This is just the tip of the iceberg." It will take scientists decades to uncover the full extent of the find of this and other lost Amazonian civilisations. This fascinating story though is only now, in 2010, coming to light.

(This lesson follows on from part 1 of this story – 10th March 2010)

Category: South America / Lost City / Amazon
Level: Intermediate / Upper intermediate

This ESL lesson is the copyright of www.newsflashenglish.com

EXERCISES

1. Indiana Jones: Who is Indiana Jones? What three things do you know about him? What do you know about his adventures to South America? Go round the room swapping details.

2. Geography: The Amazonian Basin: Where is the Amazonian Basin? What countries are in the Amazonian region? Draw a map on the board then **look on Google maps** to help you.

3. Dictation: The teacher will read four to six lines of the article slowly and clearly. Students will write down what they hear. The teacher will repeat the passage slowly again. Self correct your work from page two - filling in spaces and correcting mistakes. Be honest with yourself on the number of errors. Advise the teacher of your total number of errors. Less than five is very good. Ten is acceptable. Any more is room for improvement! More than twenty - we need to do some work!

4. Reading: The students should now read the article aloud, swapping readers every paragraph.

5. Vocabulary: Students now look through the article and underline any vocabulary they do not know. Look in dictionaries. Discuss and help each other out. The teacher will go through and explain any unknown words or phrases.

6. The article: Students look through the article with the teacher.

- a) What is the article about?
- b) What do you think about the article?
- c) Would you like to visit the Amazon?

7. Let's tell a story: In pairs. Imagine you are **Indiana Jones**. Create a short story to tell your partner about Indiana Jones discovering a lost city in the Amazonian jungle. The teacher will choose some pairs to retell their stories in front of the class.

8. Let's think! Think of five reasons to visit the Amazon. Then add five things you might do there. Write them below. Explain to your partner why you chose these?

Five reasons to visit the Amazon	Five things to do in the Amazon
1	1
2	2
3	3
4	4
5	5

The teacher will choose some pairs to discuss their findings in front of the class.

Lost city found in Amazon – 15th March 2010

9. Let's do 'The Article Quiz': Have the students quiz each other in pairs. They score a point for each correct answer and half a point each time they have to look at the article for help. See who can get the highest score!

Student A

- 1) Name the fictional character.
- 2) What nationality is the archaeologist who flew over the Amazon?
- 3) How did Google Earth help?
- 4) What does El Dorado mean in English?
- 5) What were the old theories?
- 6) What do we mean by the phrase 'tip of the iceberg'?

Student B

- 1) What was initially discovered?
- 2) Who didn't believe who?
- 3) What happened in 2003?
- 4) How large was the area discovered?
- 5) What are the implications?
- 6) What will take scientists 'decades'?

10. Let's write! An e-mail: Write and send a 200 word e-mail to your teacher about Indiana Jones discovering a lost city in the Amazonian jungle. (Imagine!) Your e-mail can be read out in class.

11. Sentence starters: Finish these sentence starters. Correct your mistakes. Compare what other people have written.

- a) The Amazon _____
- b) Indiana Jones _____
- c) The scientists _____
- d) The discovery _____

12. A day in the Amazonian Jungle: In pairs/small groups. Each person chooses to be one of the following. Think of five things that person might do or see during a typical day in the Amazonian jungle. (Imagine!) Create a short story about it. Tell it to your partner. Try to make it interesting, adventurous, funny, the problems, the experiences, the weather, etc...Try to mix your story with the others.

1 Tour guide	4 Tourist
2 Native Indian	5 Archaeologist
3 Captain of a riverboat	6 Journalist

The teacher will choose some pairs to tell their stories in front of the class.

13. Let's talk! Radio Brazil: In pairs: You are in Brazil at a radio station called Radio Brazil. You have just returned from the Amazonian jungle. One of you is the interviewer. The other student is a visiting archaeologist who has some hot news to announce about the discovery of a lost city they have discovered somewhere in the Amazonian jungle. *5-minutes.*

DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS

- 1) Did the headline make you want to read the article?
- 2) Is this find really the beginning of the reassessment of history?
- 3) Do you think there are any more lost cities?
- 4) What does the find tell us about the past civilisations of South American?
- 5) Do you think there is more to learn from our past?
- 6) Why do you think this civilisation simply disappeared?
- 7) Do you think there are more secrets deep in the Amazon jungle?
- 8) What similar stories have you heard about a lost city being looked for?
- 9) Has life in the Amazonian jungle changed so significantly since *this civilisation* disappeared off the radar?
- 10) What archaeologist projects do you know about that have uncovered any local ancient history near you?

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS

- 1) What do you think about what you read?
- 2) Would you like to discover a lost city?
- 3) How would you briefly describe the Amazon?
- 4) How has Google Earth helped?
- 5) Do you think they have discovered the lost city of El Dorado?
- 6) How would you feel if you discovered a lost city?
- 7) Would you like to fly over the Amazon?
- 8) Do you think this discovery is significant?
- 9) Does the article answer the scientific critics?
- 10) Did you like this discussion?

SPEAKING

Let's brainstorm! Searching for your lost city

Allow 10-15 minutes – As a class / small groups / pairs / 1 to 1

You have just discovered a lost city! Now you and your group need to brainstorm some ideas about what to do next? Choose a spokesperson who can present your ideas to the class at the end of your preparation. Present it visually or use the board etc... Try to be imaginative!

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 | Action plan – three things each person will now do |
| 2 | What message (if any) you will send to the outside world |
| 3 | How will you discover more about your lost city |
| 4 | What instruments and tools etc... might you use? |
| 5 | Describe the landscape where your group is. |
| 6 | Who have you met on your journey to your lost city? |
| 7 | The name of your lost city? |

The teacher can moderate the session

GAP FILL: READING

Put the words into the gaps in the text.

In 2002, a Finnish archaeologist Alceu Ranzi was flying over the Amazon when suddenly he came across _____ shapes dug into the earth. The _____ made up a series of trenches topped by banks and connected by a network of straight roads. Ranzi then contacted a _____ and archaeologist Martti Parssinen who said, "He realised they weren't natural structures and must have been made by _____ people." _____, Ranzi was rebuffed by scientists in the United States. "They just didn't believe him," said Parssinen. Because of other work he had done in the area Parssinen realised this call could be something very important. He was excited by it. The two flew over the areas Ranzi had noticed. "When I saw the shapes then, it was an amazing feeling. All the old theories said this area of the _____ could only ever have supported _____ and collectors. No one believed that a large _____ could have existed there. We realised that this discovery could change history."

historian

Amazon

civilisation

geometric

ironically

indigenous

shapes

hunters

In 2003, they published their _____ then waited three years to start excavating the area. They used Google Earth _____ images in _____ the exact sites. This made their job easier than previous archaeological work in the region. The geometric shapes discovered are thought to be the remains of bridges, roads, _____ and squares: the _____ for a civilisation spanning 155 miles. Now thanks to Google Earth the lost city of El Dorado (Spanish for *the Golden One*), as it is known, may have been found. Their find is, in a word, _____. The implications of the discovery are wide-ranging. "This really is the beginning of a reassessment of history. We are only beginning to understand Amazonia," said Parssinen adding, "This is just the _____ of the _____." It will take _____ decades to uncover the full extent of the find of this and other lost Amazonian civilisations. This fascinating story though is only now, in 2010, coming to light.

basis

satellite

scientists

pinpointing

moats

report

tip

iceberg

impressive

PUT THE ARTICLE BACK TOGETHER

- (1) In 2002, a Finnish archaeologist Alceu Ranzi was flying over the Amazon when suddenly he came across
- () civilisations. This fascinating story though is only now, in 2010, coming to light.
- () city of El Dorado (Spanish for *the Golden One*), as it is known, may have been found. Their find is, in a word, impressive. The implications of the discovery are wide-ranging. "This really is the beginning of a reassessment
- () other work he had done in the area Parssinen realised this call could be something very important. He was excited by it. The two flew over the areas Ranzi had noticed. "When I saw the shapes then, it was an amazing
- () change history." In 2003, they published their report then waited three years to start excavating the area. They used Google Earth satellite images in pinpointing the exact sites. This made their job easier than previous
- () of history. We are only beginning to understand Amazonia," said Parssinen adding, "This is just the tip of the iceberg." It will take scientists decades to uncover the full extent of the find of this and other lost Amazonian
- () geometric shapes dug into the earth. The shapes made up a series of trenches topped by banks and connected by a network of straight roads. Ranzi then contacted a historian and archaeologist Martti Parssinen who
- () said, "He realised they weren't natural structures and must have been made by indigenous people." Ironically, Ranzi was rebuffed by scientists in the United States. "They just didn't believe him," said Parssinen. Because of
- () feeling. All the old theories said this area of the Amazon could only ever have supported hunters and collectors. No one believed that a large civilisation could have existed there. We realised that this discovery could
- () archaeological work in the region. The geometric shapes discovered are thought to be the remains of bridges, roads, moats and squares: the basis for a civilisation spanning 155 miles. Now thanks to Google Earth the lost

GRAMMAR

Put the words into the gaps in the text.

Lost city found in Amazon

In 2002, a Finnish archaeologist Alceu Ranzi was flying over the Amazon when suddenly (1)___ came across geometric shapes dug into the earth. The shapes made up a series of trenches topped by banks and connected by a network of straight roads. Ranzi then contacted a historian and archaeologist Martti Parssinen (2)___ said, "He realised they weren't natural structures and must have been made by indigenous people."

Ironically, Ranzi was rebuffed (3)___ scientists in the United States. "They just didn't believe (4)___," said Parssinen. Because of other work he had done in the area Parssinen realised this call could be something very important. He was excited by it. (5)___ two flew over the areas Ranzi had noticed. "When (6)___ saw the shapes then, it was an amazing feeling. All the old theories said this area of the Amazon could only ever have supported hunters (7)___ collectors. No one believed that a large civilisation could have existed there. (8)___ realised that this discovery could change history."

In 2003, they published (1)___ report (2)___ waited three years to start excavating the area. They used Google Earth satellite images in pinpointing the exact sites. This made their job easier (3)___ previous archaeological work in the region. The geometric shapes discovered are thought to be the remains of bridges, roads, moats and squares: the basis for a civilisation spanning 155 miles. Now thanks to Google Earth the lost city of El Dorado (Spanish for *the Golden One*), as it is known, may have been found. Their find is, in a word, impressive. The implications of the discovery are wide-ranging. "(4)___ really is the beginning of a reassessment of history. We are (5)___ beginning to understand Amazonia," said Parssinen adding, "This is (6)___ the tip of the iceberg." It will take scientists decades to uncover the full extent of the find of this and (7)___ lost Amazonian civilisations. This fascinating story (8)___ is only now, in 2010, coming to light.

who

the

we

he

I

him

by

and

though

only

just

than

other

this

then

their

Lost city found in Amazon – 15th March 2010

SPELLING TEST

The teacher will ask the class individually to spell the following words, which are in the article. Afterwards, check your answers with your teacher, using the following ratings: **Pass = 12, Good = 15, Very good = 18, Excellent = 220**

1	Amazonian	11	historian
2	ironically	12	Finnish
3	rebuffed	13	collectors
4	theories	14	geometric
5	excavating	15	implications
6	archaeologist	16	decades
7	hunters	17	scientists
8	indigenous	18	civilisation
9	iceberg	19	impressive
10	though	20	reassessment

LINKS

<http://www.mnn.com/technology/research-innovations/stories/el-dorado-lost-city-found-using-google-earth>

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2010/jan/05/amazon-dorado-satellite-discovery>

<http://www.foxnews.com/scitech/2010/01/11/el-dorado-legendary-lost-city-gold-amazon/>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amazon_Basin

ANSWERS

GAP FILL: Lost city found in Amazon: In 2002, a Finnish archaeologist Alceu Ranzi was flying over the Amazon when suddenly he came across **geometric** shapes dug into the earth. The **shapes** made up a series of trenches topped by banks and connected by a network of straight roads. Ranzi then contacted a **historian** and archaeologist Martti Parssinen who said, "He realised they weren't natural structures and must have been made by **indigenous** people." **Ironically**, Ranzi was rebuffed by scientists in the United States. "They just didn't believe him," said Parssinen. Because of other work he had done in the area Parssinen realised this call could be something very important. He was excited by it. The two flew over the areas Ranzi had noticed. "When I saw the shapes then, it was an amazing feeling. All the old theories said this area of the **Amazon** could only ever have supported **hunters** and collectors. No one believed that a large **civilisation** could have existed there. We realised that this discovery could change history."

In 2003, they published their **report** then waited three years to start excavating the area. They used Google Earth **satellite** images in **pinpointing** the exact sites. This made their job easier than previous archaeological work in the region. The geometric shapes discovered are thought to be the remains of bridges, roads, **moats** and squares: the **basis** for a civilisation spanning 155 miles. Now thanks to Google Earth the lost city of El Dorado (Spanish for *the Golden One*), as it is known, may have been found. Their find is, in a word, **impressive**. The implications of the discovery are wide-ranging. "This really is the beginning of a reassessment of history. We are only beginning to understand Amazonia," said Parssinen adding, "This is just the **tip** of the **iceberg**." It will take **scientists** decades to uncover the full extent of the find of this and other lost Amazonian civilisations. This fascinating story though is only now, in 2010, coming to light.

www.newsflashenglish.com

Created by **David Robinson**. This ESL lesson is the copyright of www.newsflashenglish.com