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How is the rainforest in danger?

The world is in great danger of losing its rainforests. More than half have been lost in the last 50 years.

The Amazon forest is most at risk. Every year more and more of it is burnt down. The forest is huge, and millions of years old. At the present rate of destruction it could all be gone in just 40 years.

This would be tragic. Almost a million Indian people live in the forest. Their way of life would end and the plants and animals of the forest could be destroyed. It would also damage our world in many other ways.

Activities

- Use map A to complete these sentences.
 - The names of three rivers are
 - The names of three towns are
 - Three minerals found in the forest are
- Use the scale-line to measure these distances.
 - Manaus to Belem by river is km.
 - Manaus to Belem by road is km.
 - Carajas to São Luis by railway is km.

3 Use the information on map A for this activity. Name five groups or organisations that have helped cause a loss of rainforest.

4 Make a copy of table B. Sort the statements from drawing C into the correct columns. You need only write the number. The first one has been done for you.

Effects of forest change	
Good points	Bad points
	1

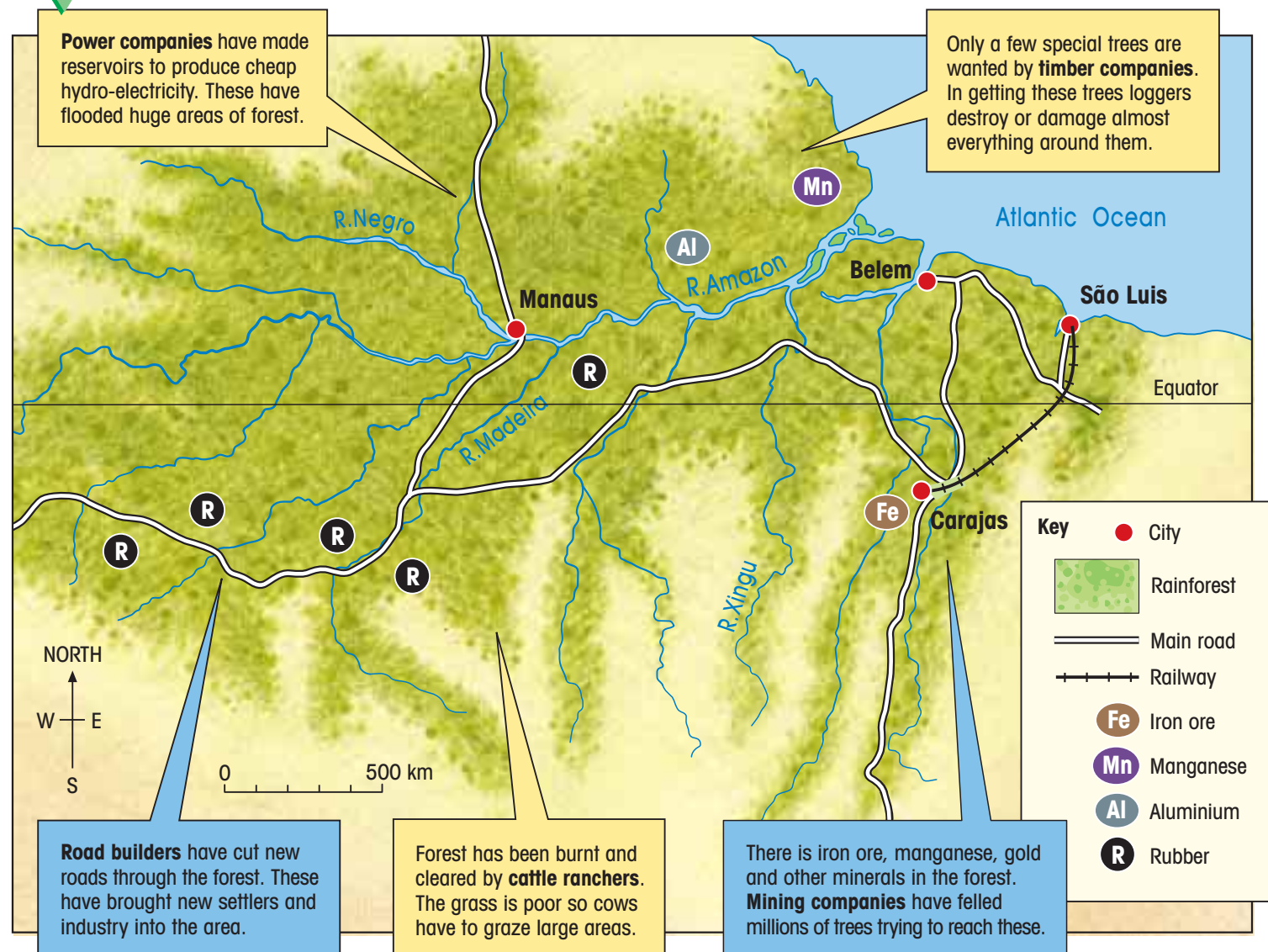
5 Drawing C will help you with this activity. Copy and complete the sentences below.



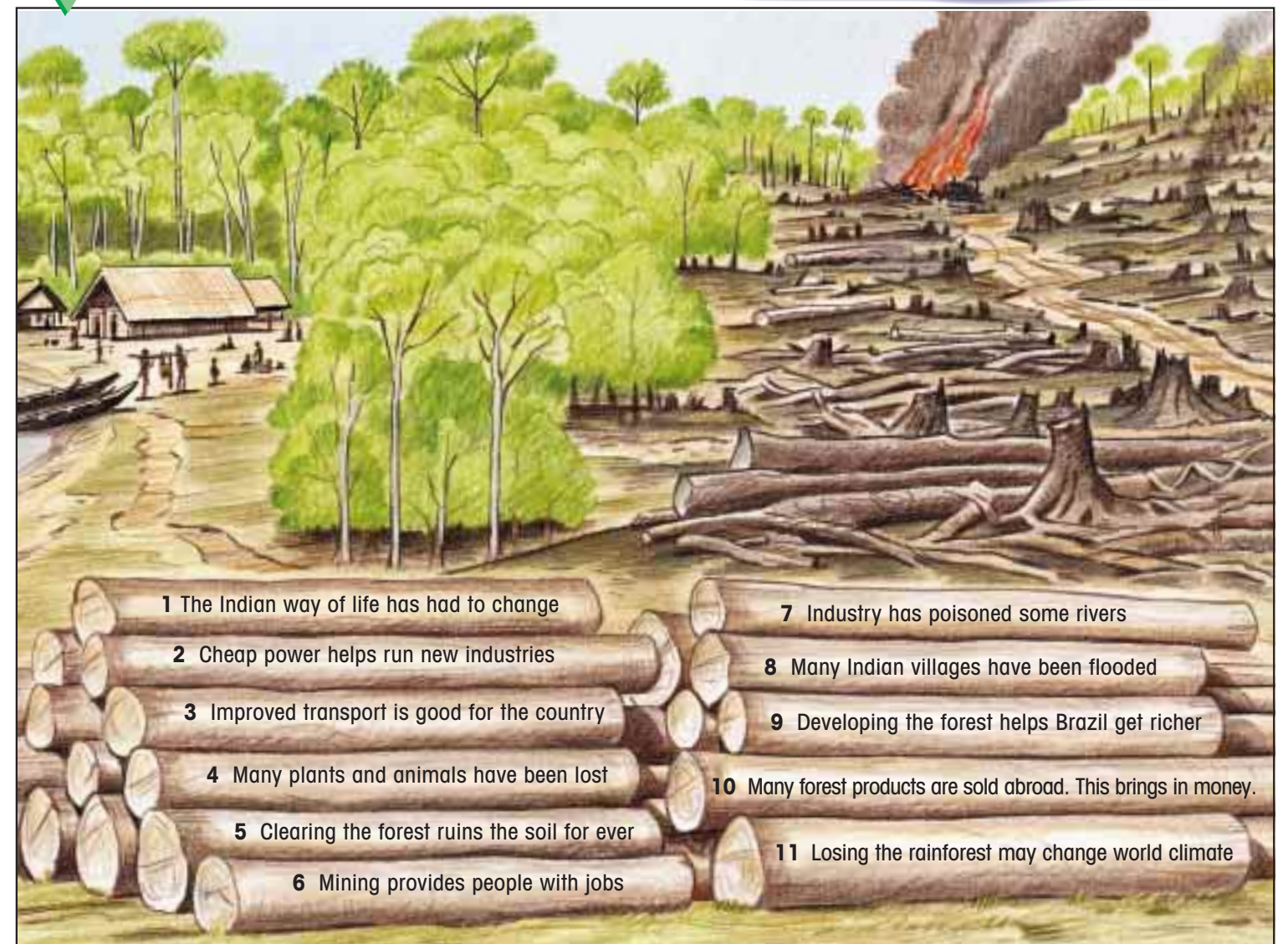
Summary

There have been many changes to the Amazon rainforest. These have brought benefits but have also caused problems.

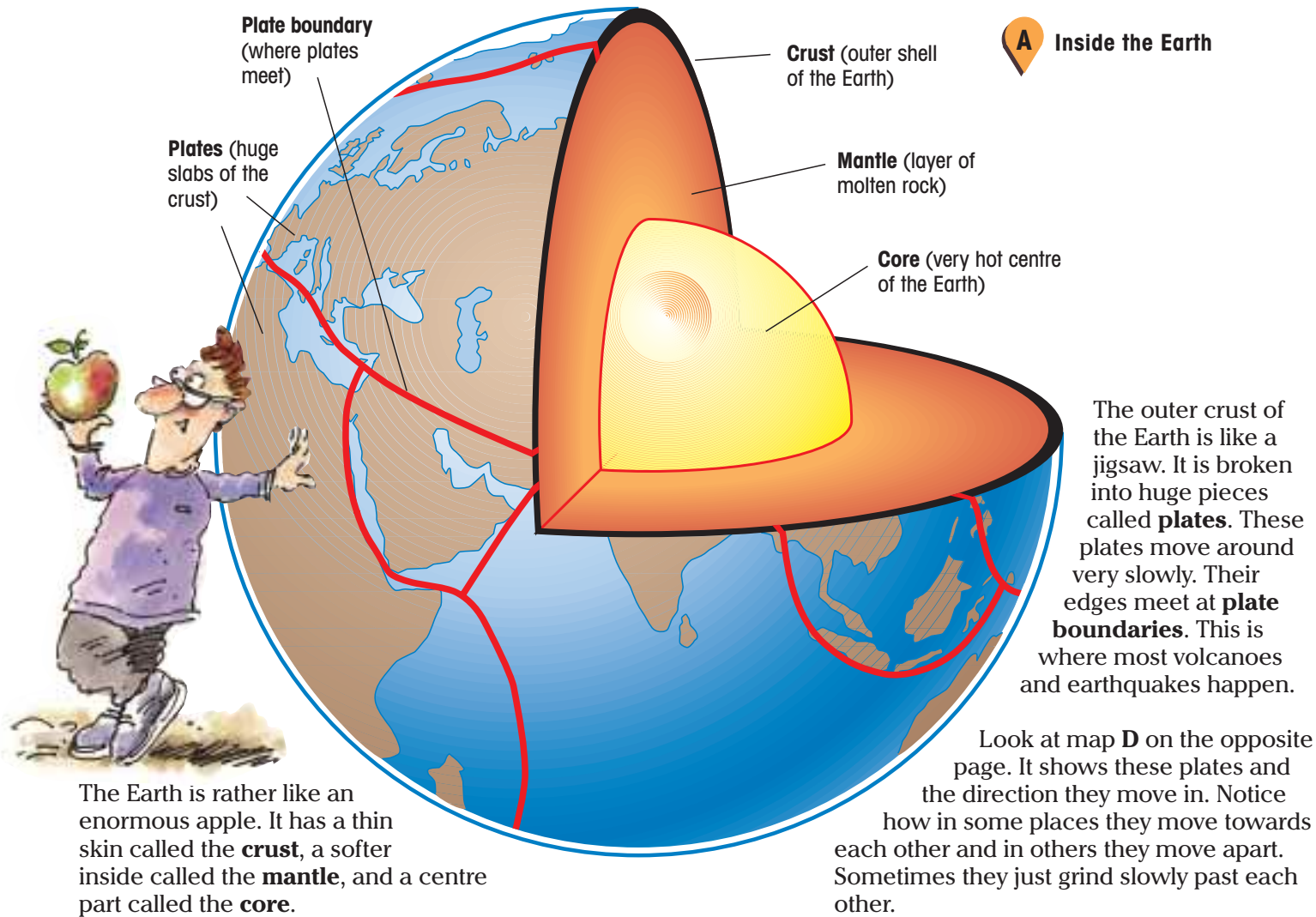
A The Amazon rainforest – some causes of forest loss



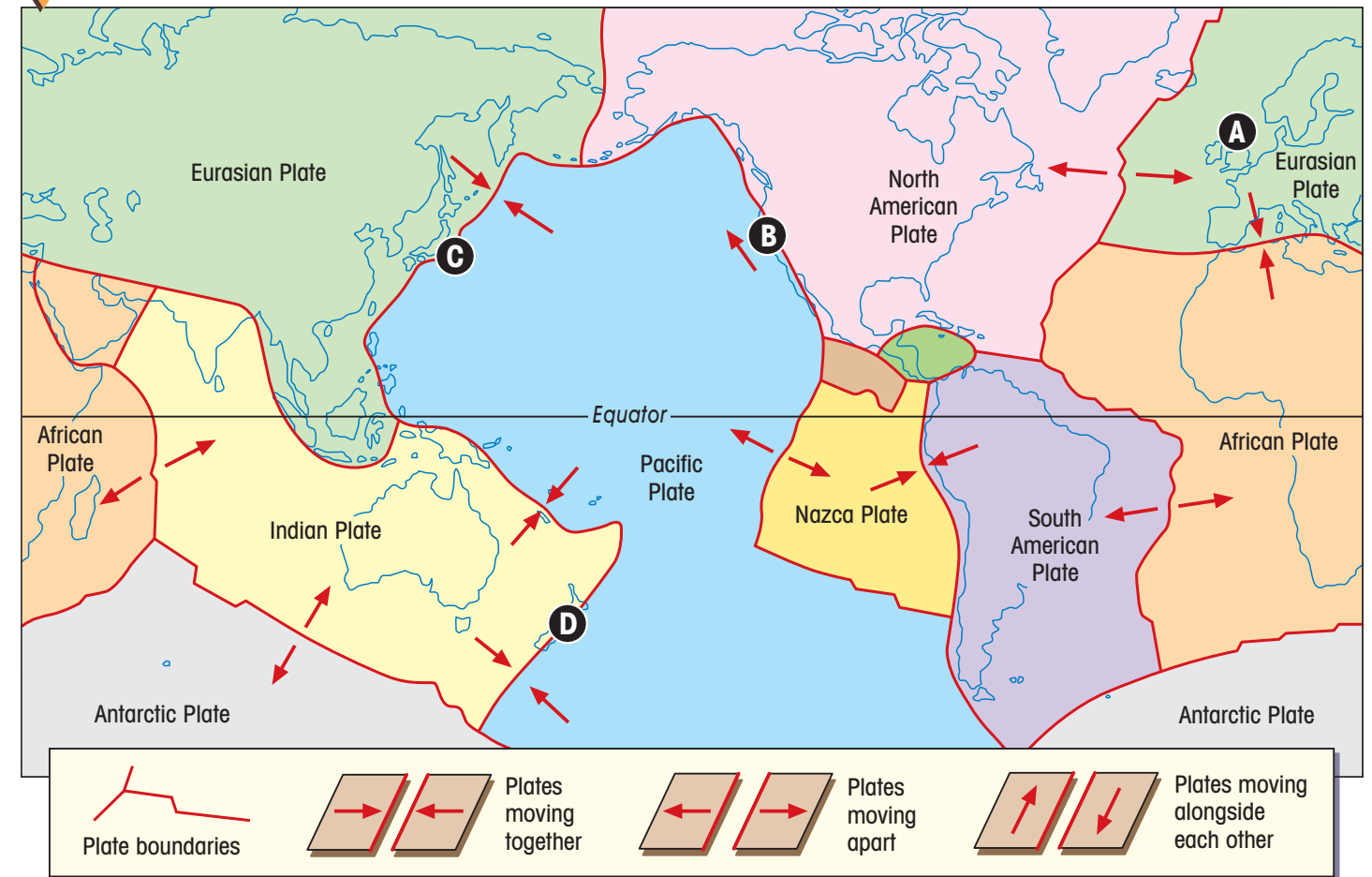
C Changes to the Amazon rainforest – some effects



How do volcanoes and earthquakes happen?



D The jigsaw of plates



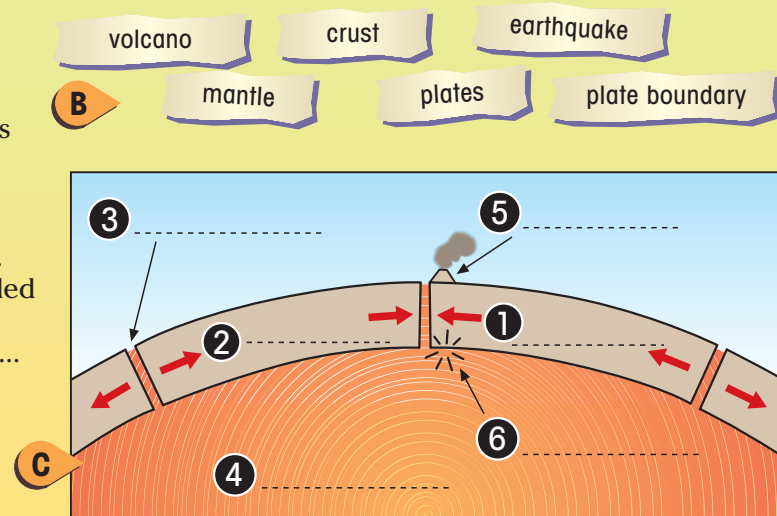
Where plates meet, the land itself may shake. This is called an **earthquake**. Earthquakes are caused by movements deep below the surface. They last only a few seconds but can be very damaging. The fires that followed the 1906 earthquake in San Francisco destroyed almost all of the city.

Most volcanoes may be found where plates either come together or move apart. At these places, the Earth's crust is weak, and red-hot molten rock underneath the crust can force its way upwards. On reaching the surface it **erupts** to form a volcano.

Activities

- Complete the following sentences using the words shown in **B**.
 - A shaking of the land is called an
 - One type of mountain is called a
 - The thin skin around the Earth is called the
 - The layer of molten rock below the crust is called the
 - Large sections of the Earth's crust are called
 - Where two plates meet is called a

- Make a larger copy of diagram **C**.
 - Put the labels from **B** in the correct places numbered 1 to 6.



- Look carefully at map **D**.
 - On which plate is Britain (A)?
 - Which two plates meet near San Francisco (B)?
 - Which two plates meet near Japan (C)?
 - Which two plates meet near New Zealand (D)?

- Look at map **D** and complete these sentences. Choose from **moving apart**, **moving together** or **moving alongside each other**.
 - The plates near San Francisco (B) are
 - The plates near Japan (C) are
 - The plates near New Zealand (D) are

- Copy and complete the following sentences.

The Earth's crust is made up of several

Each plate moves very s..... in a d..... direction.

Most v..... and e..... happen on plate b.....

Summary

The Earth's crust is made up of several plates that move about very slowly. Volcanoes and earthquakes are most likely to occur in areas where the plates meet.