

The Sahara Desert...

helps to feed the Amazon Rainforest.

The Sahara is a barren area of sand and dust in northern Africa. It's the **largest hot desert** in the world and rarely sees any rain. But there's more to the Sahara than meets the eye. Without its **dust**, the Amazon rainforest would be a very different place indeed.

The **Amazon rainforest** is a tropical jungle in the northern part of South America. It's the **largest** rainforest in the world, and is home to the greatest number of living plants and animal species on Earth.

The heavy rains and floods wash away many of the Amazon's soil nutrients that help the plants to grow.

Sahara Desert

The **Bodélé Depression** is part of a dried up lake in Chad. It's thought to be the **dustiest** place on Earth.

Africa

South America

3. The Amazon rainfall captures many of the dust particles that fall to the ground and mix with the soil.

1. Strong winds produce clouds of sand and dust that are carried high into the atmosphere.

The dust is very **nutrient rich**. Most of it is derived from sand, and the **fossilised** remains of ancient **fish** and other organisms buried in the Bodélé Depression. It contains many of the same nutrients that the Amazon loses.

2. These dust clouds travel from the Sahara and across the Atlantic Ocean before they reach the Amazon.

One of the nutrients in the dust is **phosphorus**. It's an important mineral for plant growth and is commonly used in fertilisers. Phosphorus helps plants make new cells, tissues and produce energy.

Phosphorus