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5<sup>th</sup> Grade – 2<sup>nd</sup> Place

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If I could make one rule for the world to follow about animals, it would be to preserve the Amazon Rainforest because it is the home to so many animals. Since so much of the Amazon has been destroyed, there are now many endangered species! A rule that preserved the Amazon would make sure these animals survive for years to come.

One reason these animals are so important is because they help keep the rainforest healthy. Their carcasses and feces contribute to the nutrients in the forest floor. These nutrients store carbon instead of releasing it into the atmosphere. This is why the Amazon is considered the lungs of the planet, and the animals are a big part of that.

The rainforest's ecosystem would also be thrown off balance without the different species of animals. For example, if the jaguar population was low, they would not eat as many small mammals and those mammals would be overpopulated. All the species are dependent on one another.

Logging is another big problem in the Amazon rainforest. This industry is destroying the homes of

animals that live there, and making some of them endangered.

As you can see, my rule to protect the Amazon rainforest has several benefits. Many animal species will continue to have a home, and the ecosystem of the forest, and the planet will be more balanced.