

1 AMAZONAS IN FLAMES



Around 79,000 individual fires have broken out in the Amazon region. The Amazon states have now declared a state of emergency. Environmentalists suspect slash-and-burn as the cause, but the Brazilian president accuses environmentalists of deliberately setting fires. Experts warn of incalculable ecological consequences.

SRF

Bild:

- a) Which countries are part of the Amazon?
- b) Name the three largest rainforest areas in the world.
- c) What is the significance of rainforests?
- d) Why are rainforests cleared?

2 FREE TRADE AGREEMENT BECOMES CLIMATE ISSUE



Following the EU, Switzerland (together with EFTA) has also reached an agreement with the South American Mercosur states on a free trade zone. The tariffs of up to 35 percent would thus be abolished in future. In the long term, Switzerland would gain around 260 million potential new customers under this agreement. However, criticism comes from the Farmers Association. It questions the sustainability of agriculture, especially in Brazil. There is also resistance from the Greens and environmental associations.

Bild: SRF

- a) What does EFTA mean?
- b) What does Mercosur mean?
- c) Which Swiss industries benefit and which see disadvantages?
- d) What are the major Mercosur states?
- e) What is a free trade zone?
- f) Why do the environmental associations oppose such an agreement?

? ETHISCHE GRUNDFRAGE

To what extent should climate protection be promoted at the expense of prosperity?

3 ELECTIONS OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL AND COUNCIL OF STATES



On 20 October, after 4 years, the Swiss people re-elected their members of parliament. There are 200 seats in the National Council and 45 seats in the Council of States. More than 4,500 men and women promote themselves to their voters for a seat in one of the two chambers.

SRF

Bild:

- a) How many members does the National Council (NR) or the Council of States (SR) have?
- b) Who does the NR or SR represent? NR: SR:
- c) How long is the term of office of a NR/SR?
- d) What is the important role of Parliament in the separation of powers?
- e) Why are there two parliamentary chambers in Switzerland?
- f) What are Parliament's main tasks?

4 BREXIT TAKES ANOTHER LOOP



The new British Prime Minister took office with the promise that on 31 October 2019 Great Britain would in any case leave EU. In this delicate situation, the Prime Minister is sending Parliament on a five-week recess. The Queen has approved this action. Nevertheless, many Britons disagree. The Prime Minister sells it as a move to put pressure on the EU to amend the withdrawal treaty.

SRF

Bild:

- a) What is the name of the newly elected British Prime Minister?
- b) What important promise did he make?
- c) What are the names of the two chambers in the British Parliament?
- d) What's the Queen of England's name?
- d) What is the challenge in Brexit Poker with the EU?

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FREMDWÖRTER

- ▶ potentially
- ▶ mandat / seat
- ▶ Premier

