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If someone goes into a rainforest and they see a tree cut down, possibly a thought that it's by humans might come up though, It might be by a tapir. These surprising and unique creatures live in the Amazonian rainforest. The layer that they live in is the forest floor. Amazonian tapirs are the only type of tapirs that live in South America.

Amazonian tapirs have many unique physical characteristics. Specifically, their body size is between 5.9 and 8 ft long. Another characteristic is they are known to have a pig- like appearance. They have the thick built body of a pig and a snout like nose. They also usually weigh around 150 to 300 kg. Their round bodies are covered in thick wooly fur that is white, black, brown, and grey. Their ears are shaped oval and thin. They also have a tail that is not very long and is stubby.

Amazonian tapirs' live a very interesting and private life. Because they like to be on their own, they are often solitary. They only come out at night to find food, making them nocturnal animals. As they hunt under the dark sky, they use their great eyesight to find grasses, water plants, leaves, buds, soft twigs and fruits. Amazonian female tapirs need to wait fourteen months being pregnant until having a baby. This is very interesting because woman only need to wait 9 months which is much less than 14 months. Their average of babies at a time is 1. Amazonian Tapirs live up to 30 years. Jaguars and crocodiles are some of the animals that hunt them.

Tapirs have many interesting adaptations that help that help them survive in the wild. Amazonian tapirs have snouts that are similar to elephants' trunks but not as big. These prehensile snouts can move in all directions and are used to grab foliage that is not in their normal reach. Tapirs defend themselves by using their powerful jaws. Even though it is rare, they have sometimes even

attacked humans. Amazonian tapirs are known as very good swimmers and they could stay underwater for a very long time to hide from predators.

Although tapirs have many interesting adaptations, and features, unfortunately, they are still known to be endangered. All tapir species are endangered because their habitats are being ruined and people hunt them for their meat and fur. Researchers around the world, and specifically in Michigan state university are looking for ways for farmers living near the rainforest in caragua to be able to live well with tapirs who often eat the farmers plants. Many people hope that in the future tapirs will no longer be endangered and if more people learn about tapirs and help to protect them this hope can become true.