

Celina's Page: An E-mail Plea for Help

Dear friends, I usually don't forward e-mails, but, read this!!!

The Brazilian congress is now voting on a project that will reduce the amazon forest to 50% of its size. The area to be deforested is 4 times the size of Portugal and would be mainly used for agriculture and pastures for live stock. All the wood is to be sold to international markets in the form of wood chips, by multinational companies. The truth is that the soil in the amazon forest is useless without the forest itself. Its quality is very acidic and the region is prone to constant floods. At this time more than 160.000 square kilometers deforested, and abandoned and in the process of becoming deserts.

We cannot let this happen. Copy the text into a new e-mail, put your complete name in the list below, and send to everyone you know. (Don't just forward it cause then it will end up with rows of >>>'s)

If you are the 100th person to sign please send a copy to fsaviolo@openlink.com.br

Have you received e-mails similar to this one: The Urban Legends Reference Pages (snopes.com) says: "Every day we're bombarded with e-mail of dubious origin and even more dubious veracity: messages that plead with us to find a missing kid or help a sick child, sign a petition to right some terrible injustice, take a stand on an important piece of pending legislation, forward a message to claim free merchandise, or take heed of the latest computer virus. The messages that aren't outright hoaxes are often full of misinformation, and even the ones that have some truth to them are usually out-of-date by the time we receive them."

Can you think of three reasons why the rain forest e-mail might be suspect?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

A friend who forwards e-mails such as this one may have done so out of real compassion or the desire to share an opportunity with you. You can check out hoax e-mails on the Urban Legends Web site, www.snopes.com. Enter a keyword (such as "rain forest") into the site's search engine and see if your e-mail story pops up with an explanation of what is true and what is not.

About this e-mail: there was such a movement several years ago. The Brazilian congress voted *not* to reduce the limit on May 18, 2000. This e-mail does not have a date (except "now") or any other specific information, so people continue to forward it.

Have you received e-mail forwards that seemed suspicious to you?

What did you do? Will you do the same thing *next* time?

Children Just Like Me
Institute of Texan Cultures
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