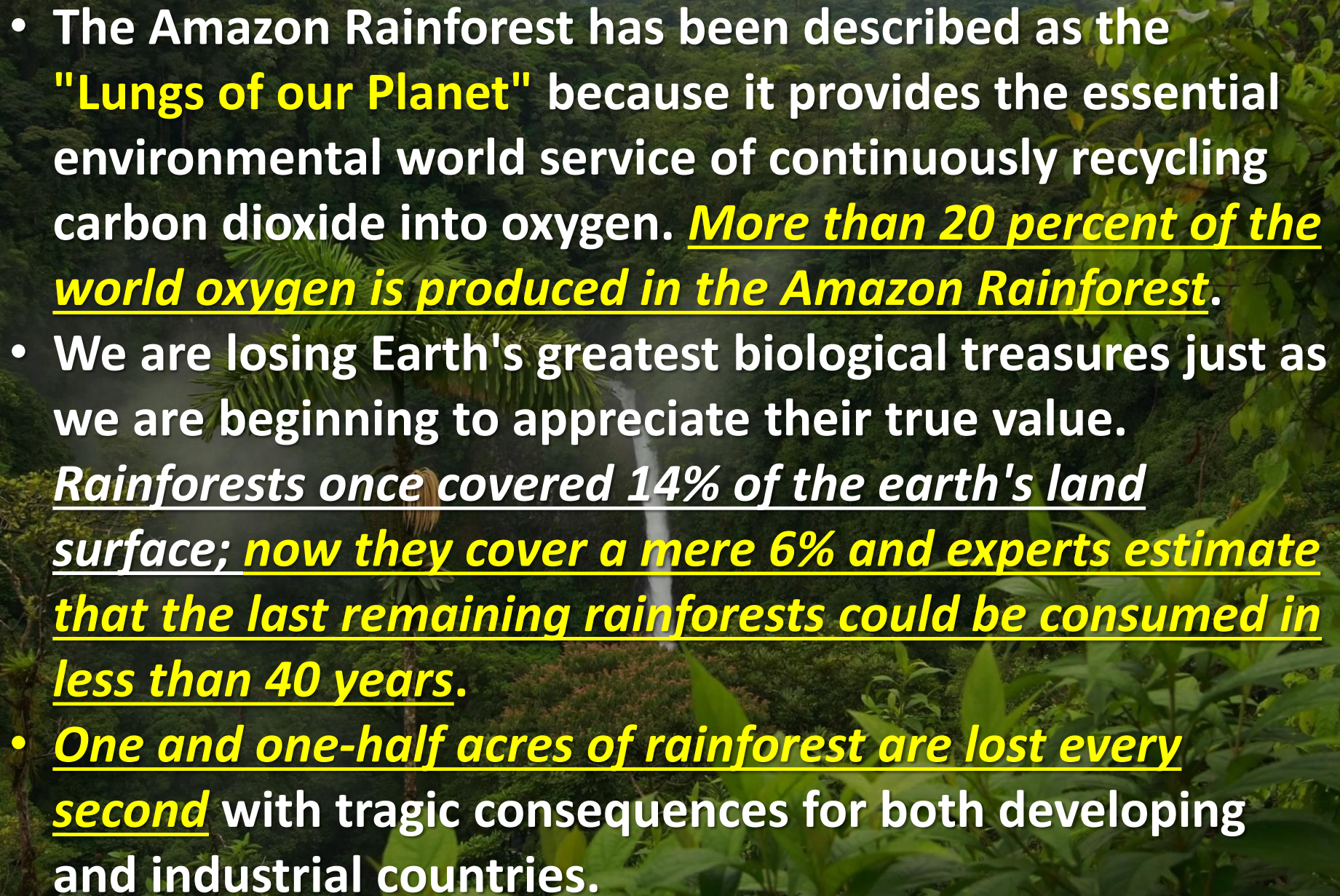
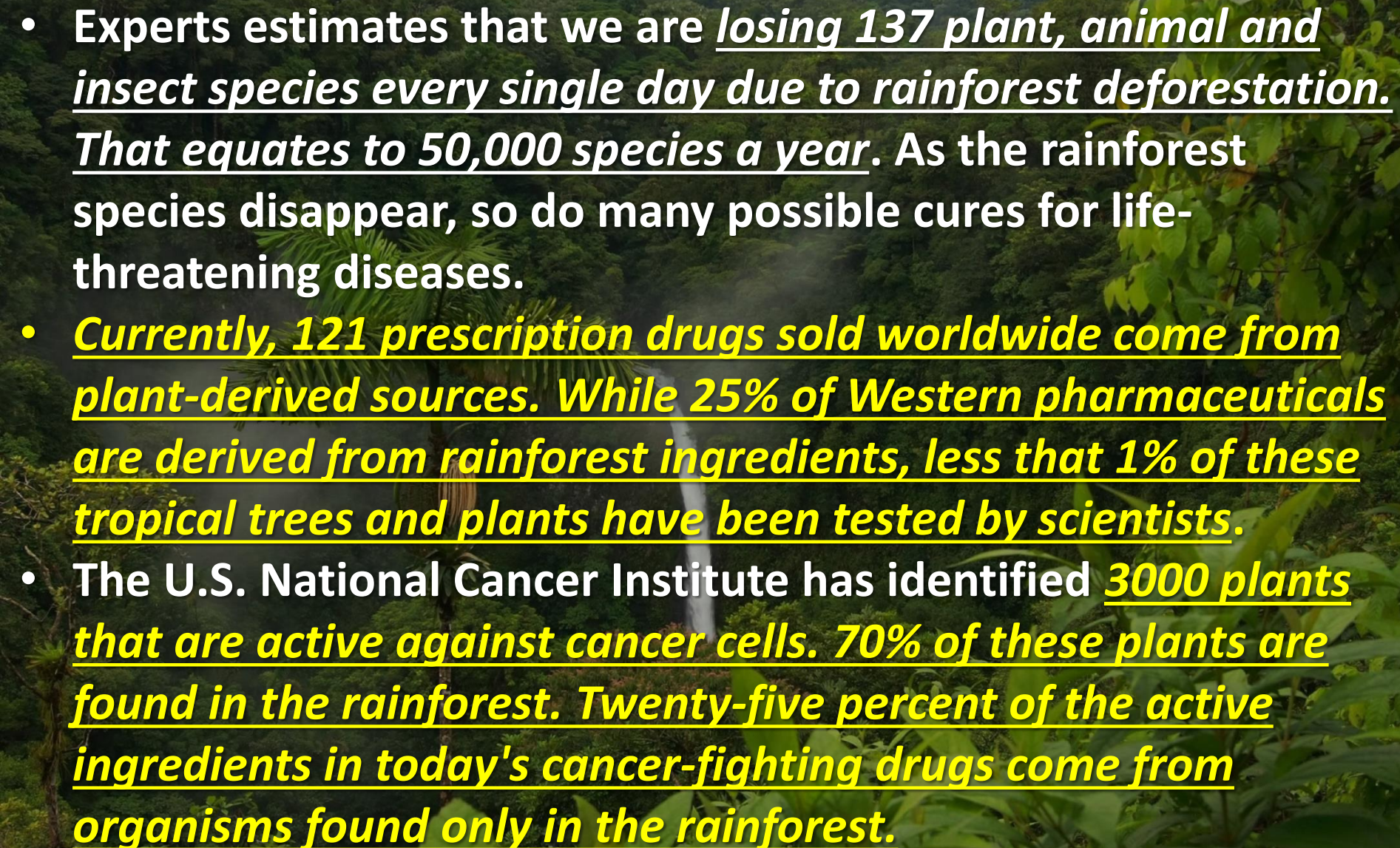
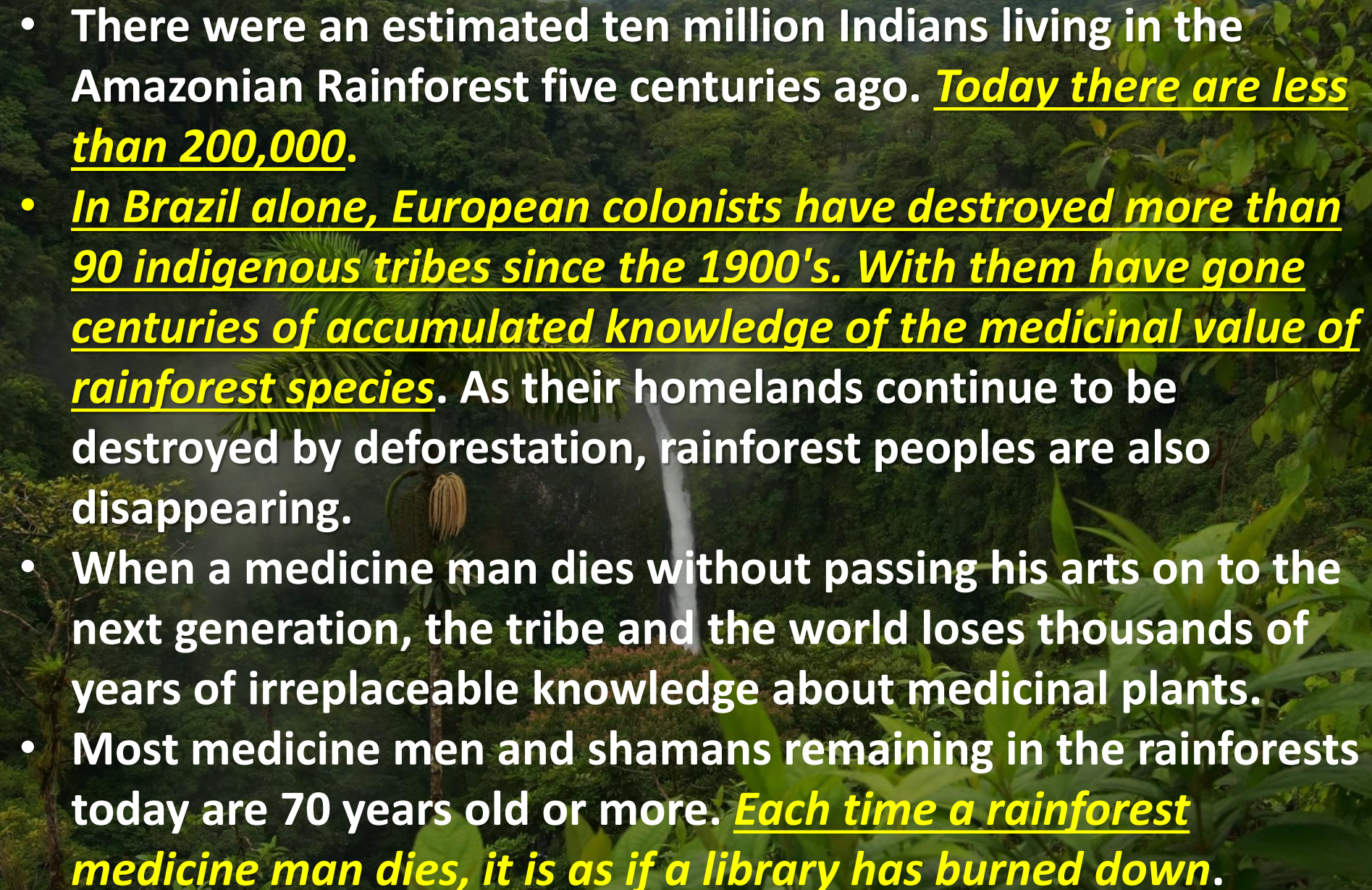


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- The Amazon Rainforest has been described as the **"Lungs of our Planet"** because it provides the essential environmental world service of continuously recycling carbon dioxide into oxygen. **More than 20 percent of the world oxygen is produced in the Amazon Rainforest.**
 - We are losing Earth's greatest biological treasures just as we are beginning to appreciate their true value. **Rainforests once covered 14% of the earth's land surface; now they cover a mere 6% and experts estimate that the last remaining rainforests could be consumed in less than 40 years.**
 - **One and one-half acres of rainforest are lost every second** with tragic consequences for both developing and industrial countries.

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- Experts estimates that we are losing 137 plant, animal and insect species every single day due to rainforest deforestation. That equates to 50,000 species a year. As the rainforest species disappear, so do many possible cures for life-threatening diseases.
 - Currently, 121 prescription drugs sold worldwide come from plant-derived sources. While 25% of Western pharmaceuticals are derived from rainforest ingredients, less that 1% of these tropical trees and plants have been tested by scientists.
 - The U.S. National Cancer Institute has identified 3000 plants that are active against cancer cells. 70% of these plants are found in the rainforest. Twenty-five percent of the active ingredients in today's cancer-fighting drugs come from organisms found only in the rainforest.

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- A lush green rainforest with a waterfall in the background. The scene is filled with dense vegetation, including various trees and plants. The waterfall is a prominent feature, cascading down a rocky ledge. The overall atmosphere is serene and natural.
- There were an estimated ten million Indians living in the Amazonian Rainforest five centuries ago. Today there are less than 200,000.
 - In Brazil alone, European colonists have destroyed more than 90 indigenous tribes since the 1900's. With them have gone centuries of accumulated knowledge of the medicinal value of rainforest species. As their homelands continue to be destroyed by deforestation, rainforest peoples are also disappearing.
 - When a medicine man dies without passing his arts on to the next generation, the tribe and the world loses thousands of years of irreplaceable knowledge about medicinal plants.
 - Most medicine men and shamans remaining in the rainforests today are 70 years old or more. Each time a rainforest medicine man dies, it is as if a library has burned down.