

AMÉRIQUE
AMÉRIQUE DU SUD
**AMAZONIE**

02-ESPACE
ESPÈCES
PLANTE
**ARBRE**

**ASIE**

# hévéa

The rubber tree (Hevea brasiliensis) is the source of most of the natural rubber used in the modern world. Native to the Amazon basin, it was long harvested by indigenous peoples long before the arrival of Europeans. When its industrial potential became apparent in the 19th century, the rubber tree became the subject of global economic competition. Seeds were transported to Asia, where climatic conditions favored the creation of vast plantations. This botanical exchange profoundly transformed the economic history of entire regions. The rubber tree thus stands at the intersection of biology, geography, commerce, and politics. Its latex fueled the growth of the tire industry, the electrical industry, and numerous everyday objects.