

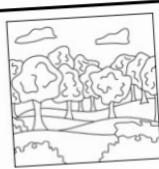
READING COMPREHENSION

Passages with Text-Based Questions

BIOMES & HABITATS

Let's Visit the Deciduous Forest

by Anna Geiger - © themeasuredmom.com



Let's Visit the Ocean

by Anna Geiger - © themeasuredmom.com



Did you know that $\frac{7}{10}$ of Earth is covered by water? Most of this water is in the ocean. Let's visit!

than?

the five large areas of much of Earth's surface. These are the Atlantic, Pacific, Indian, Arctic, and Southern Oceans.



The Desert

1. What is the main idea of this article?

- Ruby Bridges went to William Frantz Elementary School.
- Ruby Bridges had a kind teacher named Mrs. Frank.
- Ruby Bridges helped make it possible for African Americans to go to white schools.

2. What are federal marshals?

- bus drivers
- government workers
- school teachers

3. Why did many white parents leave?

- They didn't think their children were safe.
- They thought their children would be treated unfairly.
- They didn't like the idea of integration.

4. Who was the first African American to integrate a white school?

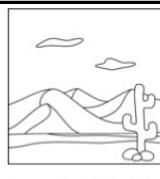
- Ruby Bridges
- Jackie Robinson
- Martin Luther King Jr.

5. Who was Mrs. Frank?



Let's Visit the Desert

by Anna Geiger - © themeasuredmom.com



Are you ready for a visit to the driest place on Earth? Let's go to the desert!

What is a desert?



This map shows where to find some of the world's hot deserts.

A desert is a kind of biome. A biome is a large area with a certain climate. Deserts have a dry climate. Deserts have few kinds of plants and animals.

Let's Visit the Wetlands

It's time to put on our boots. We're going to the wetlands!

What are wetlands?

Wetlands are areas with certain kinds of plants. A wetland is a place where most of the ground is too wet for trees instead of grasses.



About this Resource

The bundle contains differentiated reading passages about 12 different biomes/habitats. Each passage comes in three different levels. The 36 total passages are perfect for teaching a diverse group of learners in small groups.

Reading levels

Each level 1 passage is approximately guided reading level J. This corresponds to a high first grade reading level. For a point of reference, these passages are similar to the *Henry and Mudge* books by Cynthia Rylant and *Danny and the Dinosaur*, by Syd Hoff.

Each level 2 passage is approximately guided reading level L. This corresponds to a mid second grade reading level. These passages are similar in difficulty to the *Horrible Harry* chapter books by Suzy Kline and the *Amelia Bedelia* books by Peggy Parrish.

Each level 3 passage is approximately guided reading level N. This corresponds to an early third grade reading level. Level N books include the *A to Z Mystery* series by Ron Roy.

Please note that guided reading levels are approximate. The more challenging passages have a smaller font, more challenging vocabulary, longer sentences, and more difficult response questions. You should certainly feel free to use the passages with children who are not reading at these exact levels.

Teaching Tips

Of course you may use the passages in any setting you'd like, but I created them specifically for use with guided reading groups. As you plan your small group lessons, refer to the teacher's guide for ideas.

A guided reading lesson may go like this:

1. Re-read familiar books for fluency practice.
2. Quickly review sight words and/or sight word phrases.
3. Introduce the reading passage – this may include building background and calling attention to new vocabulary.
4. Have all the children read the passage on their own and re-read if other students are still finishing.
5. Lead a discussion by asking high and low level questions about the passage.
6. If time permits, conclude with word work or guided writing.

You might have your learners respond to the reading by completing the response sheets at their desks.

The Tropical Rainforest

sample



Let's Visit the Tropical Rainforest

Teacher's Guide - Passage I

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Passage introduction

Today you're going to learn about a biome that has a greater variety of plants and animals than any other biome. That's because this biome has the perfect weather for plants to grow and for animals to live. Let's learn about the tropical rainforest.

Vocabulary

- tropical rainforest
- emergent layer
- canopy
- understory
- forest floor
- epiphyte

Possible teaching points (choose just one or two)

- Using text features (map, headings, captions, chart, bold print words)
- Identifying important information (What about the sloth/tapir/toucan makes it well suited for life in the tropical rainforest?)
- Reporting information in an organized way

Discussion questions

- What is a tropical rainforest?
- What are the layers of a tropical rainforest?
- What is the name of the layer with the tallest trees?
- What are epiphytes?
- What is interesting about the sloth?
- How does a tapir's snout come in handy?
- Why is a toucan's beak useful in the rainforest?

Reading response (optional)

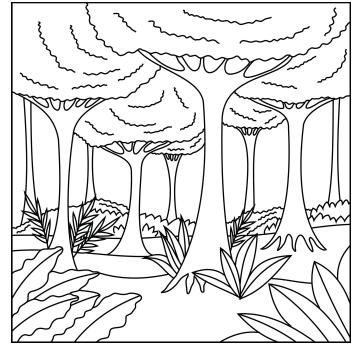
If desired, print and distribute the response sheet. You might ask students to highlight information in the text as they write their answers.

Please use this teacher's guide as a tool to get you started and not as a script.
Use only what makes sense for your learners, and supplement as needed.



Let's Visit the Tropical Rainforest

by Anna Geiger - © themeasuredmom.com



Would you like to go where it's summer all the time? Let's visit the tropical rainforest!

What is the tropical rainforest?

The **tropical rainforest** is a hot, humid forest. Tropical rainforests are warm all year. They get a lot of rain.

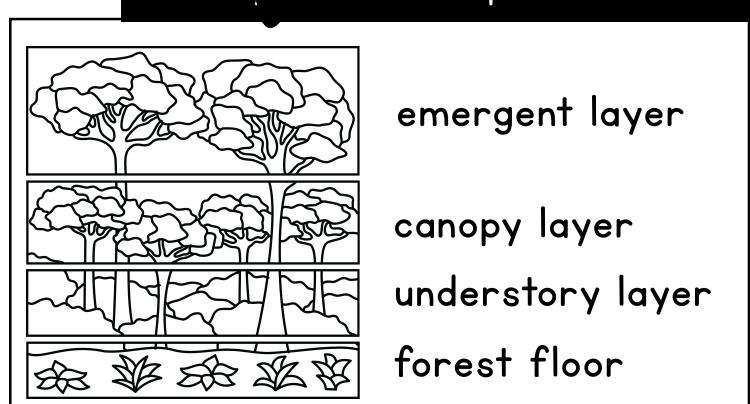


This map shows where you can find the tropical rainforest.

A tropical rainforest is a kind of biome. A **biome** is a large area of Earth with a certain climate and specific types of plants and animals.

The four layers

A tropical rainforest has four layers. The top is the **emergent layer**. Tall trees live there. The next layer is the **canopy**. This is where most of the plants and animals live. Next is the **understory**. Shrubs and small trees live in the understory. The last layer is the dark **forest floor**. Here you will find mosses, ferns, dead leaves, and insects.



Plant life

Some rainforest plants need special ways to reach the sunlight.



epiphytes

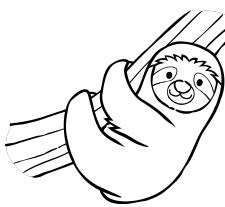
Epiphytes are plants that grow on other plants. They grow in the canopy where there is sunlight.



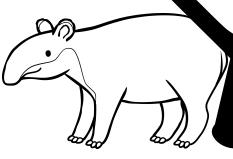
liana

Lianas have roots in the ground. Then they wind themselves around other plants to reach the sun.

Amazing animals



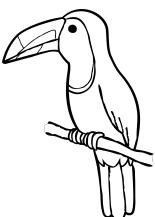
sloth



tapir

Sloths are slow, sleepy animals. They live in trees and eat and sleep upside down. They only come down about once a week!

Tapirs look a little like pigs. They use their long snouts to grab leaves or pick fruit. They love to be in the water.



toucan

The toucan uses its big beak to pick and peel fruit. Sometimes it uses its tongue to catch insects, frogs, and reptiles.

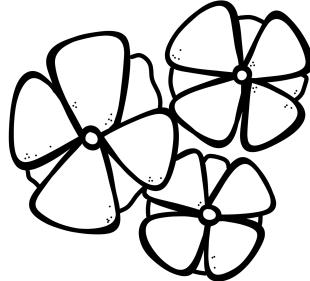
Did you know that scientists are still discovering new life in the rainforest? Get your magnifying glass and come along. Maybe you'll discover a new plant or animal!

The Tropical Rainforest

Name _____

1. What will you find in the emergent layer of the rainforest?

- shrubs and small trees
- many different plants and animals
- tall trees



2. What is an epiphyte?

- a vine that winds around trees
- a plant that grows on other plants to get sunlight

3. True or false? A sloth spends most of its time in trees.

- True
- False

4. True or false? Turtles like to spend time in the water.

- True
- False

5. What do the bold print words mean? Draw lines to match them to their definitions.

tropical rainforest

a busy layer of the rainforest

canopy

a large area of Earth with a certain climate and specific types of plants and animals

biome

a hot, humid forest

Let's Visit the Tropical Rainforest

Teacher's Guide - Passage 2

©themeasuredmom.com

Passage introduction

Today you're going to learn about a biome that has a greater variety of plants and animals than any other biome. That's because this biome has the perfect weather for plants to grow and for animals to live. Let's learn about the tropical rainforest.

Vocabulary

- biome
- emergent layer
- canopy
- understory
- forest floor
- epiphyte

Possible teaching points (choose just one or two)

- Using text features (maps, headings, captions, chart)
- Identifying important information (What about the sloth/tapir/toucan makes it well suited for life in the tropical rainforest?)
- Reporting information in an organized way

Discussion questions

- What is the tropical rainforest?
- How much rain does a tropical rainforest get in a year?
- Describe the layers of a tropical rainforest.
- Why does an epiphyte grow on other plants?
- How do lianas get sunlight?
- Why is it useful that algae grows on a sloth?
- How is the toucan perfectly suited for life in the rainforest?

Reading response (optional)

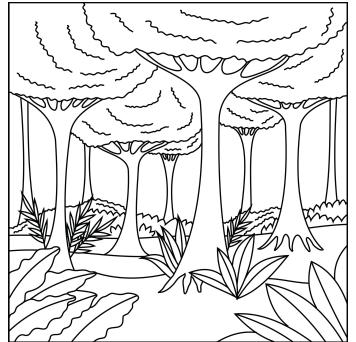
If desired, print and distribute the response sheet. You might ask students to highlight information in the text as they write their answers.

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Use only what makes sense for your learners, and supplement as needed.



Let's Visit the Tropical Rainforest

by Anna Geiger – © themeasuredmom.com



Would you like to visit a place where it's summer all the time? Let's head to the tropical rainforest!

What is the tropical rainforest?

The tropical rainforest is a hot, humid forest. Most tropical rainforests get about 80 - 400 inches (200 to 1000 cm) of rain each year.

A tropical rainforest is a kind of biome. A **biome** is a large area of Earth with a certain climate and specific types of plants and animals.

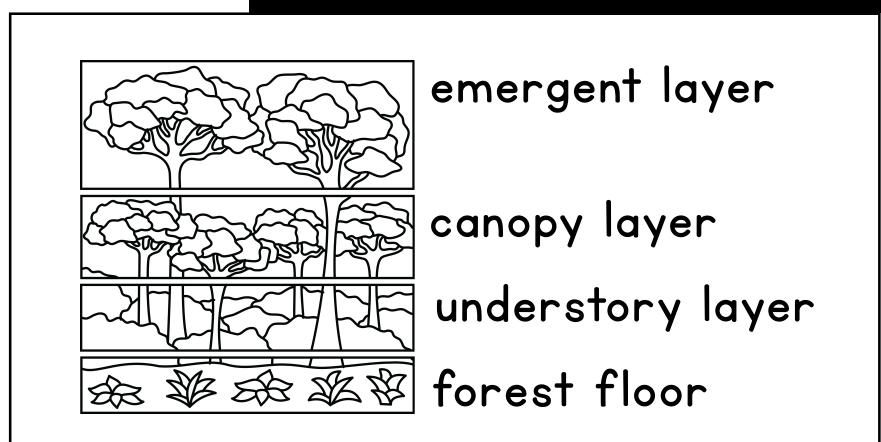


The four layers of the tropical rainforest

The top layer is the **emergent layer**. Tall trees live here. They act as a giant umbrella over the rest of the forest.

The next layer is the **canopy**, where the greatest amount of plants and animals live.

The layers of the tropical rainforest



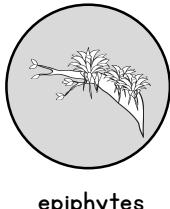
Next is the **understory**, which is home for shrubs and small trees.

The **forest floor** is a dark place. Here you'll find mosses, ferns, dead leaves, and billions of insects.

Plant life

Some rainforest plants have special ways to reach the sunlight.

Epiphytes are plants that grow on other plants. They grow in the canopy where there is plenty of sunshine. An orchid is an example of an epiphyte.



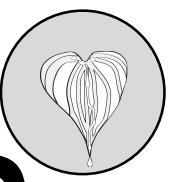
epiphytes



liana

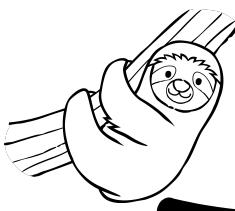
Lianas are other plants which need to reach the sun. They have roots in the ground. Then they wind themselves around trees to reach the sunlight.

Rainforest plants also need to deal with a lot of water. Many of them have leaves with a pointed tip. This lets water drain off

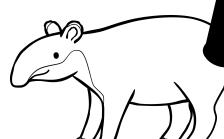


leaf with a pointed tip

Amazing animals



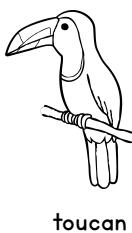
sloth



tapir

Sloths sleep up to 20 hours a day. They live in trees and eat and sleep upside down. In fact, sloths only come down to the ground about once a week! These animals are so slow that algae grows on their fur. The algae helps them blend in with trees so that they are less noticeable to predators.

Tapirs look a little like pigs. They have long, curved snouts. They use their snouts to grab leaves or pick fruit. Tapirs love to spend time in the water; a tapir can use its snout as a snorkel.



toucan

The toucan is a beautiful bird with a large, bright beak. It uses its beak to pick and peel fruit. Sometimes it uses its tongue to catch insects, frogs, and reptiles. Toucans are not great fliers. They mainly travel by hopping among trees.

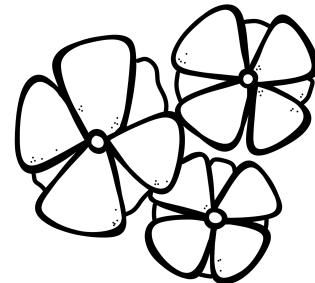
Did you know that scientists are still discovering new plants and animals in the rainforest? Grab your magnifying glass and come along. Maybe you'll discover a new creature yourself!

The Tropical Rainforest

Name _____

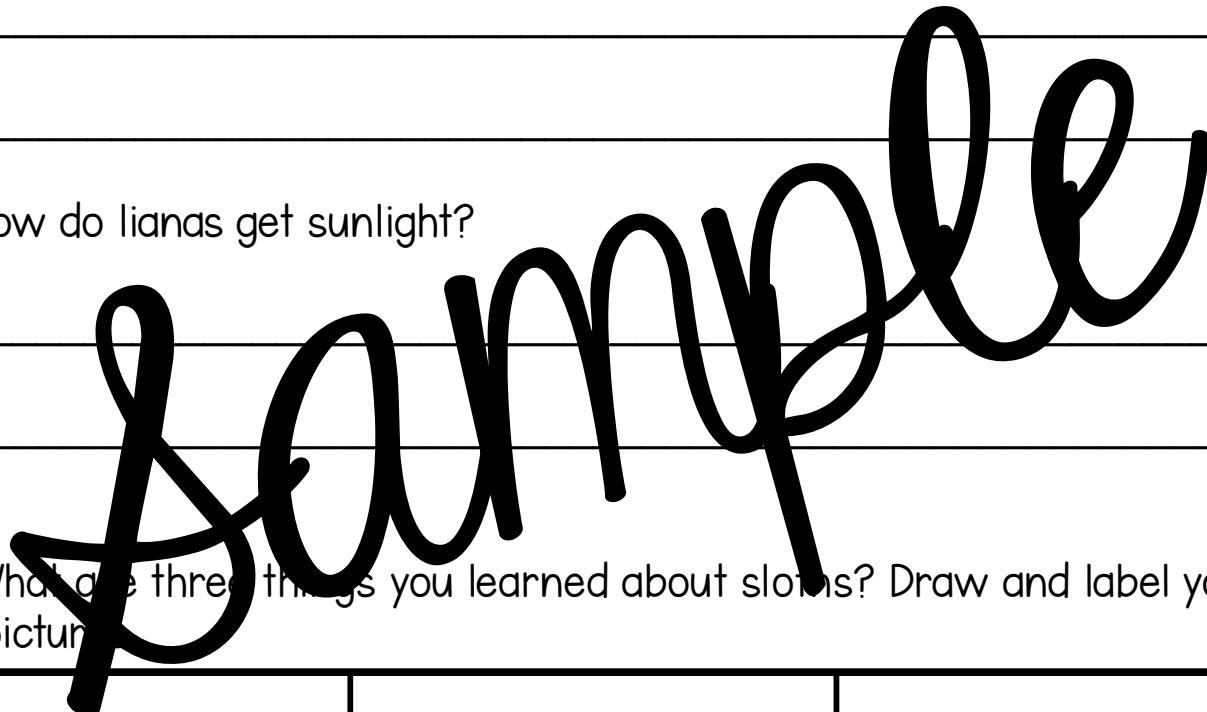
1. What will you find in the emergent layer of the rainforest?

- shrubs and small trees
- many different plants and animals
- tall trees

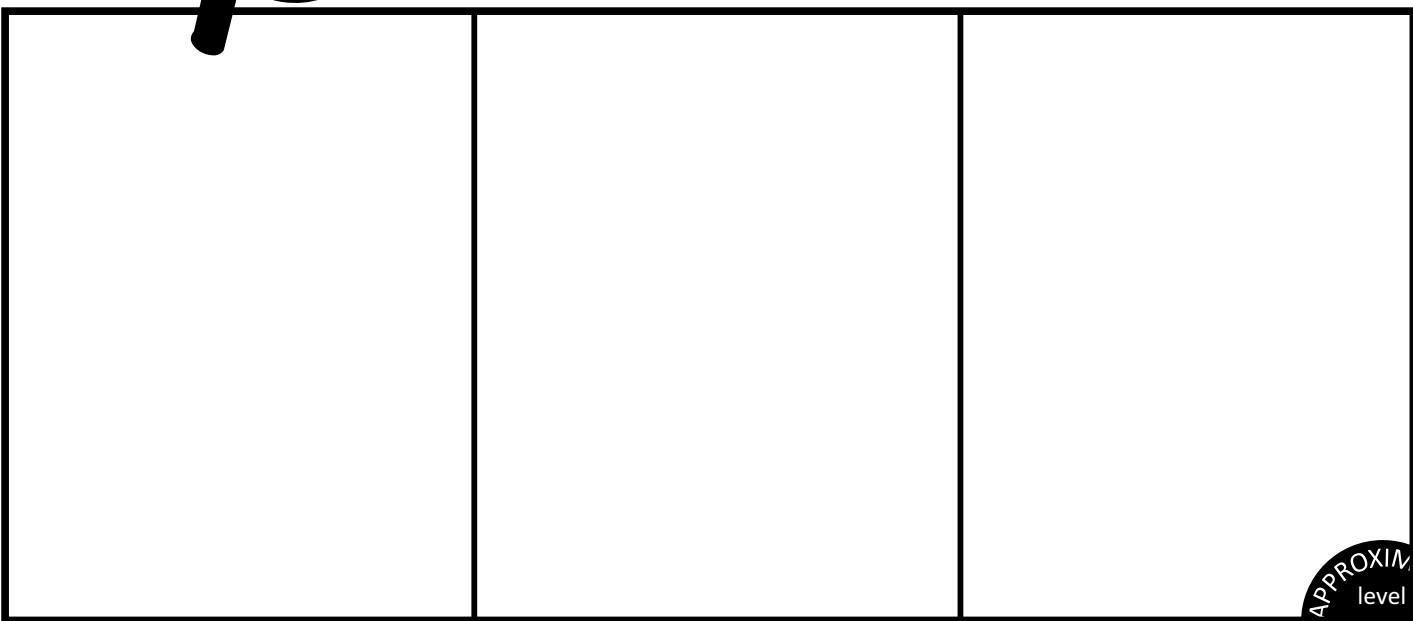


2. What is an epiphyte?

3. How do lianas get sunlight?



4. What are three things you learned about sloths? Draw and label your picture.



Let's Visit the Tropical Rainforest

Teacher's Guide - Passage 3

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Passage introduction

Today you're going to learn about a biome that has a greater variety of plants and animals than any other biome. That's because this biome has the perfect weather for plants to grow and for animals to live. Let's learn about the tropical rainforest.

Vocabulary

- tropical rainforest
- biome
- emergent layer
- canopy
- understory
- forest floor
- epiphyte

Possible teaching points (choose just one or two)

- Using text features (headings, captions, bold print, word map, etc.)
- Understanding new vocabulary using text definitions (tropical rainforest, biome, epiphyte, etc.)
- Contrasting (How are the layers of the tropical rainforest different from each other?)
- Finding important information (How is the sloth/capybara/tapir/toucan well suited to life in the rainforest?)

Discussion questions

- What is the tropical rainforest?
- What are the four layers of the tropical rainforest?
- Explain what you would find in each layer.
- How do epiphytes get sunlight?
- How do lianas get sunlight?
- How is the sloth well suited to life in the rainforest?
- What is one way the capybara protects itself from predators?
- What are two ways the tapir is suited for life in the rainforest?
- Why does the toucan mostly hop instead of fly?

Reading response (optional)

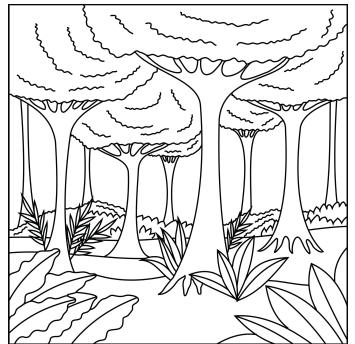
If desired, print and distribute the response sheet. You might ask students to highlight information in the text as they write their answers.

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Let's Visit the Tropical Rainforest

by Anna Geiger – © themeasuredmom.com



Would you like to visit a place where bananas and pineapples grow for free? Would you like to go where it's summer all the time? Let's head to the tropical rainforest!

What is the tropical rainforest?

The **tropical rainforest** is a hot, humid forest that gets a lot of rain. Most tropical rainforests grow in hot places near the earth's equator and get about 80 – 40 inches (200 to 1000 cm) of rain each year. It's warm all year long in the tropical rainforest.

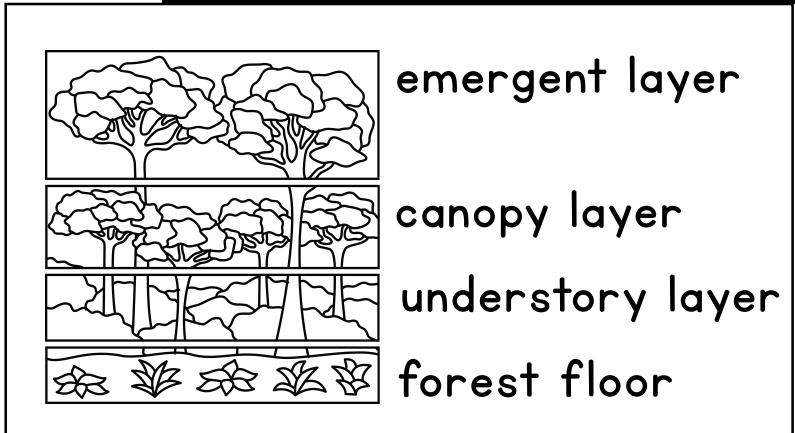
A tropical rainforest is a kind of biome. A **biome** is a large area of Earth with a certain climate and specific types of plants and animals.



The four layers of the tropical rainforest

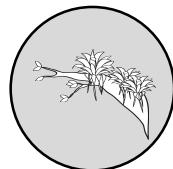
The rainforest is so big that it has four layers. The top layer is the **emergent layer**. Tall trees live in this layer. They act like a giant umbrella over the rest of the forest. The next layer is the **canopy**, where the greatest amount of plants and animals live. Some animals spend their entire lives in the canopy and never touch the ground! Next is the **understory**, a dark area which is home for shrubs and small trees. Larger animals such as snakes and leopards live in the understory. The **forest floor** is the final layer. This is a dark place with mosses, ferns, dead leaves, and billions of insects.

The layers of the tropical rainforest



Plant life

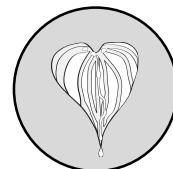
Some rainforest plants have special ways to reach the sunlight. For example, an orchid is an epiphyte. **Epiphytes** are plants that grow on other plants up in the canopy where there is plenty of sunshine. Lianas are other rainforest plants which need to reach the sun. They have roots in the ground but wind themselves around trees to reach the sunlight.



epiphytes



liana



leaf with
a pointed tip

Rainforest plants also need to cope with a lot of rainfall. Many leaves are shaped with a pointed tip. This allows water to drain off.

Amazing animals



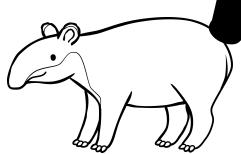
sloth

Sloths are slow-moving mammals that sleep up to 20 hours a day! These tree-dwelling animals eat and sleep upside down. They only descend to the ground about once a week. Sloths are so slow that algae grows on their fur. But this is a good thing! The algae helps them blend in with their surroundings so that they are less noticeable to predators.



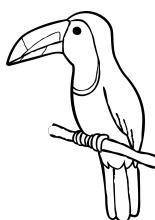
capybara

The capybara is a large, furry rodent. It lives along rivers in the tropical rainforests and spends the hottest part of the day in water or in the shade. In fact, the capybara can stay underwater for up to five minutes to hide from predators.



tapir

Tapirs look a little like pigs. They have long, curved snouts which help them grab leaves or pluck fruit. Like capybaras, tapirs are excellent swimmers. A tapir can even use its snout as a snorkel.



toucan

The toucan is a beautiful bird with a large, bright beak. It uses its beak to pluck and peel fruit. Sometimes it uses its large tongue to catch insects, frogs, and reptiles. Since toucans have small wings and cannot fly very far, they usually travel by hopping among trees.

Did you know that scientists are still discovering new plants and animals in the rainforest? Grab your magnifying glass and come along. Maybe you'll discover a new creature yourself!

The Tropical Rainforest

Name _____

1. Name the four layers of the tropical rainforest.

2. What are two ways that plants in the rainforest get sunlight?

a. _____

b. _____

3. Why is it good that algae grows on a sloth's back?

4. Tell two ways that a toucan is well suited to life in the rainforest.

a. _____

b. _____

5. Draw lines to match the words to their definitions.

emergent layer

the rainforest layer with mosses, ferns, dead leaves, and insects

forest floor

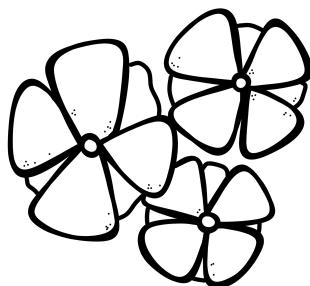
the top layer of the rainforest

canopy

the layer of the rainforest where shrubs and small trees live

understory

the layer of the rainforest where most plants and animals live



Answer Key

Passage 1 (Level J)

1. tall trees
2. a plant that grows on other plants to get sunlight
3. False
4. True
5. tropical rainforest – a hot, humid forest / canopy – a busy layer of the rainforest / biome – a large area of Earth with a certain climate and specific types of plants and animals

Passage 2 (Level L)

1. tall trees
2. Answers may vary – plants that grow on other plants
3. Answers may vary - They wind themselves around trees.
4. Answers may vary - Pictures may show sloths sleeping, hanging upside down from trees, and having moths growing on their fur.

Passage 3 (Level M)

1. emergent layer, canopy, understory, forest floor
2. Answers will vary – They grow on other plants in the canopy and they wind around other trees to reach the sunlight.
3. Answers will vary - It helps the sloth blend in with its surroundings to hide from predators.
4. Answers will vary – It uses its beak to pluck and peel rainforest fruit. It doesn't matter that it can't fly well because there are so many trees that it can hop from tree to tree.
5. emergent layer – the top layer of the rainforest / forest floor – the rainforest layer with mosses, ferns, dead leaves, and insects / canopy – the layer of the rainforest where most plants and animals live / understory – the layer of the rainforest where shrubs and small trees live

The Tropical Rainforest

Get the bundle!

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The Desert

Let's Visit the Desert

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BUY NOW