

Rainforest Creatures

Rainforests are also called jungles. They are located close to the equator between the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn. The weather is very hot. It rains nearly every day so it is also very wet. Many creatures live there because there is plenty of food and water, shade from the heat and shelter from the rain. In fact, more creatures live in the rainforest than anywhere else on Earth. It is estimated that about half of all the Earth's animal species live in the rainforest areas.

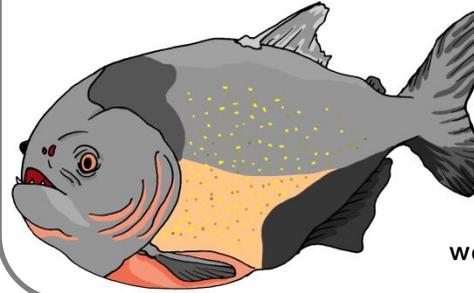
Trees grow very tall in the rainforests and all the vegetation is very thick and dense. Different creatures live in different layers of the forest vegetation. Some live high up in the forest canopy, while others remain on the forest floor.

Many rainforest animals are camouflaged to help them avoid predators and to creep up on their own prey without being spotted.



This is a spider monkey. It lives in Central and South America. A Spider monkey finds its food in the treetops and feasts on nuts, fruits, leaves, bird eggs and spiders. It lives almost all of the time high in the tree canopy, rarely visiting the forest floor. It has a very long strong tail which helps it to move quickly to escape from predators like eagles or jaguars. Its thick fur comes in a variety of colours including brown, black and even white.

This is a piranha fish. It is native to the warm rivers and lakes of the Amazon region in South America.. Although it will eat plants too, the piranha has very sharp teeth and an aggressive appetite for meat. When it is alone, a piranha will eat small fish, birds, reptiles and mammals. However, when piranhas are in large groups, they will attack larger creatures in the water too.



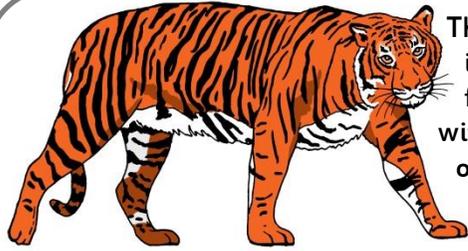
This is a chimpanzee. It lives in the forests of Central and Western Africa. Mostly it eats fruit, leaves and seeds, but it also enjoys ants and termites. Sometimes it hunts larger prey, such as bush pigs or small monkeys. The chimpanzee is covered in black hair. It is also very clever and is able to use tools, such as sticks, to help it obtain food.



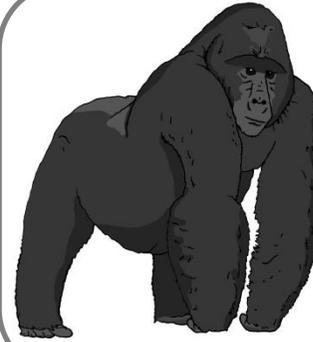
This is a golden lion tamarin. It is very rare and only lives in forests in Brazil, South America. It uses its long fingers to pick insects out of the bark of trees. It also eats snails, lizards, fruit and leaves. It has beautiful golden fur which frames its black face in a similar way to the mane of a lion. Tamarins live mainly in the trees and usually give birth to two young ones.



This is a howler monkey. It lives in the top of the forest canopy of South America where it forages for its favourite leaves, fruit and flowers. The howler monkey has thick hair which can be black, brown or red in colour. It makes a loud booming call to warn other monkeys not to invade its territory. The calls of an adult male can be heard up to three miles away.



This is a tiger. It is the biggest animal in the cat family. The tiger's orange fur with black stripes helps it to blend with its surroundings. Each tiger has its own pattern of stripes. Tigers live in Asia, some in cold places and many in the jungle. It eats meat and hunts and kills smaller animals like deer, antelopes and wild pigs. Tigers give birth to two or three cubs at a time. Cubs may be born in a den among rocks, tall grass or tree roots.



This is a gorilla. It is the largest ape and lives only in Central Africa near the Equator. It is covered by thick black or brown hair. The gorilla mainly eats plants and really likes young juicy shoots of grass and sometimes eats worms, ants or other insects. Gorillas do not drink water as they get all the liquid they need from the plants they eat. It spends a lot of time sleeping! Female gorillas have one baby. A mother gorilla will usually have three children in her lifetime, spaced about four years apart.

This is a giant anteater. It lives in South America. It eats ants and termites. It uses a really long tongue to



eat and can eat up to 30,000 ants a day! It has coarse hair which is grey or brown and a long bushy tail. If it finds ripe fruit on the floor, it may

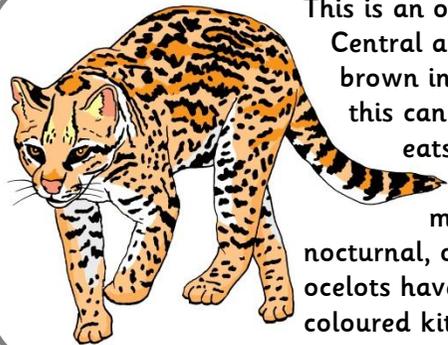
also eat that. A female anteater gives birth to one young one which will ride on its mother's back for up to a year.

This is a toucan. It is covered in black and white feathers and has a very big, bright orange beak which is mainly used to pick and peel fruit.



It also eats some insects, frogs and reptiles. The toucan lives in the treetops of South America. However, it does not fly well and often hops between trees.

It can only fly short distances. It nests in holes in trees and usually lays between two and four eggs.



This is an ocelot. It lives in the rainforests of Central and South America. Its fur is reddish brown in colour with black spots and rosettes, this can vary quite a lot between animals. It eats small mammals, fish and frogs. It also takes to the trees to catch monkeys and birds. The ocelot is nocturnal, only active once it gets dark. Female ocelots have litters of two or three darkly coloured kittens.



This is a hummingbird. It is a tiny, colourful bird which lives throughout North, Central and South America but mainly in the tropics. There are more than 300 different types of hummingbird. It drinks nectar from flowers using its long beak. Its wings have to flap very fast so that it can hover to feed. Occasionally it will eat small insects. It makes its tiny nest in trees or bushes and usually lays between one and three eggs.

Rainforest Creatures

Complete this table with ✓. (AF2)

Name of creature	Eats plants or fruit (or parts of these)	Eats other creatures	Lives in Africa	Lives in South America	Lives in North America	Lives in Central America	Lives in Asia	Spotted or striped coat for camouflage	Lays eggs
tiger									
gorilla									
giant anteater									
toucan									
ocelot									
hummingbird									
golden lion tamarin									
howler monkey									
chimpanzee									
piranha fish									
spider monkey									

Why has the writer put the information in boxes? (AF4)

What does the anteater use to help it eat? (AF2)

Do you think all birds pick and peel fruit in the same way that a toucan does? (AF3)

Why do you think that the ocelot has a spotted coat? (AF3)

Why is a table like that above a good way to present information? (AF4)

How do you think that the howler monkey got its name? (AF3)

Why do you think that the ocelot hunts at night? (AF3)

In which ways is the howler monkey similar to the spider monkey? (AF2/AF7)

Why do you think that it is only when piranhas are in large groups that they attack large animals? (AF3)

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tiger		✓					✓	✓	
gorilla	✓	✓	✓						
giant anteater	✓	✓		✓					
toucan	✓	✓		✓					✓
ocelot		✓		✓		✓		✓	
hummingbird	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓			✓
golden lion tamarin	✓	✓		✓					
howler monkey	✓			✓					
chimpanzee	✓	✓	✓						
piranha fish	✓	✓		✓					✓
spider monkey	✓	✓		✓					

Why has the writer put the information in boxes? (AF4) **To make it easier to read.**

What does the anteater use to help it eat? (AF2) **It uses its long tongue.**

Do you think all birds pick and peel fruit in the same way that a toucan does? (AF3) **No some birds eat fish, seeds, insects etc.**

Why do you think that the ocelot has a spotted coat? (AF3) **It acts as camouflage, in the same way as a tiger's coat.**

Why is a table like that above a good way to present information? (AF4) **Easy to find information.**

How do you think that the howler monkey got its name? (AF3) **From its really loud call that can be heard for miles.**

Why do you think that the ocelot hunts at night? (AF3) **Darkness enables it to creep up and surprise its prey.**

In which ways is the howler monkey similar to the spider monkey? (AF2/AF7) **Both monkeys living high in tree canopy of South America.**

Why do you think that it is only when piranhas are in large groups that they attack large animals? (AF3) **A single fish would stand no chance of success on its own.**