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TAKE ME HOME: Forests of the World



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ALBATROS



LOCATED NEAR
THE EQUATOR—
ESPECIALLY IN SOUTH
AMERICA, AFRICA,
SOUTHEAST ASIA,
AND OCEANIA.



THESE RAINFORESTS
ARE VERY BIODIVERSE.
THAT'S BECAUSE THEY
WERE THE FIRST ONES
TO THRIVE ON EARTH.



THERE IS NO DRY
SEASON—THE WEATHER
IS HOT AND WET
YEAR-ROUND.

The Tropical Rainforest

“Come on, don't be shy! Just watch your step! Our rainforest is bustling with life—with every step you take, you'll encounter all sorts of local inhabitants—be them small, large, colorful, or furry. I'm Tony the toucan and I know this forest like the back of my wing. As we're close to the equator, plants are green throughout the year. I'm sure you'll find many new friends here. Wait for me. I'll just inform everybody that we have visitors!”



PLANTS ARE GREEN AND
KEEP GROWING AND BLOOMING
YEAR-ROUND.

COME ON, THIS IS
OUR LAST STOP!

I CAN'T GO
ANY FURTHER!



IN AREAS CLOSE TO THE
EQUATOR, FREQUENT
RAINS ARE COMMON.
TO CATCH ENOUGH
SUNLIGHT, PLANTS ON
THE FOREST FLOOR HAVE
HUGE LEAVES, WHOSE
TIPS POINT DOWNWARDS.
WATER SLIDES OFF
THEM EASILY.

RAINFORESTS ARE IRREPLACEABLE—NO WONDER
THEY ARE NICKNAMED “THE LUNGS OF THE
EARTH.” THEY HAVE A HUGE IMPACT ON THE
CLIMATE OF OUR PLANET.

HURRY UP!



As you know, plant growth booms around the equator. Apart from ideal weather conditions, plants need one more thing: sunlight. But while some trees grow really high, others grow on the forest floor, where light is scarce beneath the dense canopy. Up in the canopy, there's plenty of light. That's why goodies like fruits and nuts grow there and attract eaters from different parts of the rainforest.



THE AMAZONIAN MOTMOT

THE GEOFFROY'S SPIDER MONKEY

THE ORCHID

BROMELIADS

THE AMAZON TREE BOA

LIANAS

THE CENTRAL AMERICAN AGOUTI

THE NINE-BANDED ARMADILLO

THE LEAF-CUTTING ANT

THE GIANT ANTEATER

THE POISON DART FROG

THE KAPOK TREE

THE GREEN ANACONDA

WHAT GROWS HERE?



BROMELIADS
... GROW ON TREES,
JUST LIKE ORCHIDS.
DID YOU KNOW THAT
A PINEAPPLE IS A KIND
OF BROMELIAD?



ORCHIDS
... ARE EPIPHYTES—PLANTS
THAT GROW ON OTHER PLANTS
SO THEY'RE HIGHER AND
CLOSER TO THE SUN.



HELICONIAS
... ARE VIBRANTLY COLORED
TO ATTRACT POLLINATORS,
ESPECIALLY HUMMINGBIRDS.
IN RETURN FOR SWEET
NECTAR THEY SPREAD POLLEN,
HELPING NEW PLANTS GROW.



LIANAS
... ARE VINES COVERING
TREES FROM TOP TO
BOTTOM, CONNECTING
THEM AND FORMING
BRIDGES FOR FOREST
ANIMALS.



PAPAYA
... IS ONE OF MANY TYPES
OF EXOTIC FRUIT THAT GROW
IN THE RAINFOREST. VARIOUS
MONKEYS LIKE TO EAT THEM.



COCOA
... IS A RAINFOREST
TREASURE THAT GROWS
ON THE COCOA TREE.

Rainforest Layers

The rainforest is made up of four layers.

Up in the emergent layer, there's plenty of water and sunshine. But it's very windy! Nobody can live here permanently.

Even the canopy devours as much light as possible—that's why it is so dense and full of leaves. This is where animals find food and shelter.

Shade-tolerant trees grow in the understory and smart animals use mimic techniques to hide from their enemies.

The forest floor is dark yet very busy. Fallen leaves provide food for smaller animals and help small plants grow.



WHO LIVES HERE?



THE BLUE MORPHO BUTTERFLY
... IS ONE OF THE LARGEST AND
MOST BEAUTIFUL BUTTERFLIES.
BUT WHEN IT CLOSES ITS
COLORFUL WINGS, IT BECOMES
ALMOST INVISIBLE.



THE PRAYING MANTIS
... PLAYS HIDE-AND-SEEK.
SOME BLEND IN THANKS TO
THEIR COLORS; OTHERS HAVE
BODIES SHAPED LIKE TWIGS,
LEAVES, OR FLOWERS.



THE HUMMINGBIRD
... IS SMALL BUT AGILE AND
FAST. IT FEEDS ON NECTAR
FROM FLOWERS, WHICH
IT SUCKS OUT WITH ITS
DAGGERLIKE BILL.



THE SCARLET MACAW
... IS SYNONYMOUS WITH THE
RAINFOREST. THESE COLORFUL
PARROTS LIVE IN THE CANOPY,
WHERE THEY TALK AND PLAY
WITH EACH OTHER.



THE HOWLER MONKEY
... IS THE LOUDEST MONKEY
AROUND. THEIR VOICES
CARRY THROUGHOUT THE
WHOLE RAINFOREST.



THE BAIRD'S TAPIR
... LOVES DENSE AND WET
FORESTS. IT ALSO LOVES TO
EAT AND SPENDS THE DAY
SEARCHING FOR DELICIOUS
LEAVES, TWIGS, AND FRUIT.



TAKE ME HOME:

Forests of the World

WRITTEN BY PAVLA HANÁČKOVÁ
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Come around the world with us and get to know the different types of forests and their inhabitants as well as plants. Our animal friends will join you on this journey. They're having the adventure of a lifetime: they want to go home. But what if they don't know where their home is? Luckily, they have Charlie. He'll accompany them on their journey to discover various forests to find which one is the right one for each of them. And what happens after they reach their final destination? The animals would love to tell you. Join us on our journey. Along the way you'll learn many new things!

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WARNING:
Choking hazard.
Not suitable for children
under 36 months.

