

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.

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!"

> I CAN'T GO ANY FURTHER!

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

COME ON, THIS IS OUR LAST STOP!

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

IN AREAS CLOSE TO THE

THE FOREST FLOOR HAVE

TIPS POINT DOWNWARDS.

HUGE LEAVES, WHOSE

WATER SLIDES OFF

THEM EASILY.

EQUATOR, FREQUENT

RAINS ARE COMMON.

TO CATCH ENOUGH SUNLIGHT. PLANTS ON

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THE AMAZONIAN MOTMOT

THE NINE-BANDED ARMADILLO

THE GREEN ANACONDA

THE AMAZON TREE BOA

LIANAS

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.

00PS!

THE CENTRAL AMERICAN AGOUTI

BROMELIADS

THE GIANT ANTEATER

Y

THE GEOFFROY'S SPIDER MONKEY

THE ORCHID

THE LEAF-CUTTING ANT

THE POISON DART FROG



THE KAPOK TREE



WHAT GROWS HERE?



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



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



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



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



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



<u>COCOA</u> ... 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.

THE BANANA PLANT

THE HARPY EAGLE THE BRAZIL NUT TREE LIANAS

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.

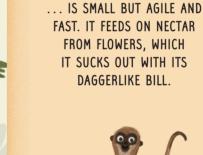


THE PRAYING MANTIS ... PLAYS HIDE-AND-SEEK. SOME BLEND IN THANKS TO THEIR COLORS; OTHERS HAVE BODIES SHAPED LIKE TWIGS, LEAVES, OR FLOWERS.



THE HUMMINGBIRD

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.

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WRITTEN BY PAVLA HANÁČKOVÁ ILLUSTRATED BY LINH DAO

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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