

Rainforest Animals Fact Sheet

Rainforests are home to more kinds of animal than anywhere else on Earth. Because rainforests are so big, it can be very hard to find these creatures. Scientists think that there might be millions of new animals hiding deep in the rainforest that we don't yet know about.

Different rainforests around the world contain different kinds of animals. In South American rainforests, jaguars and caimans are the largest animals. They hunt and feed on many other creatures including sloths, armadillos, capybaras and many kinds of monkey. In Asia, tigers and crocodiles are the main predators. Elephants are the largest animals here, but they eat only plants.

Many reptiles and amphibians live in rainforests. The biggest snakes in the world, green anacondas, are found in the rivers of the Amazon. They can grow to the length of a double decker bus!



The Amazon is also home to lots of different kinds of frogs. Unlike the frogs that we know, many of these live high in the trees. Some are very brightly coloured and they can be poisonous to humans.

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Lots of different birds live in the rainforest, including parrots, hornbills, toucans and birds of prey. Tiny hummingbirds also live here. These tiny birds can be as small as your finger. They are the only birds in the world that can fly forwards, backwards and even upside down!



The rainforest contains many kinds of invertebrates, including insects, spiders and worms. Ants are the most common animal in the rainforest. The world's largest spider lives in the rainforests of South America. The goliath bird eating tarantula can grow up to 27cm.

Did you know?

Scientists recently discovered the world's smallest kind of frog on the rainforest floor in Papua New Guinea. This tiny frog is less than one centimetre long- about the size of your little fingernail!



Rainforest Plants Fact Sheet

There are thought to be 400 billion trees in the Amazon rainforest. That's more than 50 trees for every person on Earth! Rainforest trees grow close together. They form a thick canopy that shades the ground underneath. Because there are so many trees, they have to grow very tall to reach the sunshine.



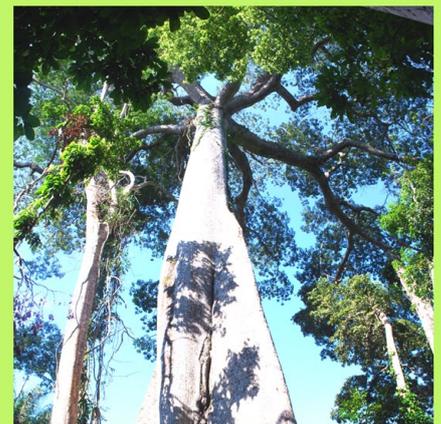
Rainforest trees provide food and shelter for all the creatures of the forest. Insects, birds, reptiles, amphibians and mammals eat the fruit, stems and leaves of the trees. These animals shelter in the branches of trees, or in the thick layer of rotting leaves on the forest floor.

Many other plants grow in the rainforest. Orchids grow beautiful flowers of many colours. Bromeliads have thick waxy leaves and flowers that form a well to catch water. Vines and lianas grow up and in between tree trunks. They make pathways for forest animals to walk and climb across.



Did you know?

The kapoc tree is one of the tallest trees of the rainforest. The tallest one measured lives in Costa Rica. It is 60 meters tall. This is as tall as 10 houses! Scientists think that it is 400 years old.



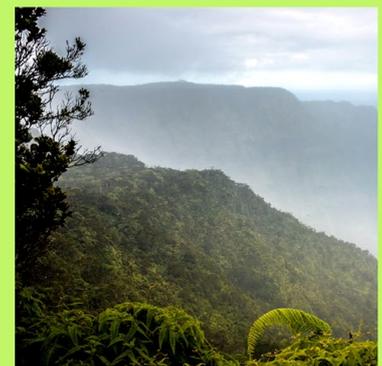
Saving the Rainforest Fact Sheet

Lots of people around the world are working very hard to save the rainforest. They hope to save the trees, plants and animals that live there. Many charities raise money to buy areas of rainforest land to protect them from being cut down. They look after the land and keep the plants and animals safe.



Other charities take areas of the rainforest that have been damaged by humans and plant lots more trees and plants there. When these grow back, they will make a new habitat for the creatures of the forest. People around the world can help by taking care not to buy things that are made out of rainforest timber. When they go to the supermarket, they can check the labels of their shopping for rainforest friendly ingredients. They can also recycle paper, so that new trees do not have to be cut down.

One thing you can do is to teach people about the rainforest and how important it is to the environment. Tell your family and friends about rainforest habitats and the amazing animals that live there. That way you can be a forest friend!



Did you know?

Lots of big companies are making promises to only use rainforest friendly ingredients. This is great news for the future of the forests!



Threats to the Rainforest Fact Sheet

Forests around the world are at risk from deforestation. This is when large areas of the forest are cut down or burnt. In the last 50 years, humans have destroyed a lot of the world's rainforests.



When trees are cut down, there are fewer trees to clean the air of greenhouse gases and make oxygen for us to breathe. Scientists think that this is making climate change much worse.

Forests are destroyed when people want to use the land of the forest for something else. Most forest land that is cleared is used for farming. Each year, thousands of miles of rainforest are cleared for farming soybeans and palm oil. These ingredients are used to make many things, including food for humans and farm animals.



Threats to the Rainforest Fact Sheet

As well as plants, lots of rainforest land is used to farm cattle. Some rainforest land is cleared because people want to use the timber as a building material, and to make furniture, cardboard and paper.



When the rainforest is cut down or burned, all the plants are killed and all the animals that live there lose their homes. Lots of species of animal are at risk of extinction because of this. Deforestation is also very bad for the tribes of people that live in the rainforest. They lose their homes and their way of life when the forest is cut down.

Did you know?

There are 50 million tribal people living in rainforests around the world. Many of them live the same way their families have lived for thousands of years.



Useful Things from the Rainforest Fact Sheet

Many things that we use every day grow in tropical rainforests. Lots of the food we eat comes from rainforests, especially fruit and vegetables. Mangoes, bananas, corn, tomatoes, potatoes, pineapples, coconuts and avocados are all things that first grew in rainforests. Chocolate, tea, coffee and sugar are also made from rainforest ingredients.



People who live in the rainforest build their homes out of different parts of rainforest plants, including trunks, vines and leaves. Rainforest vines called rattan are used to make furniture, baskets and ropes.

Rubber is another product from the rainforest. It is made from the sap of a tree. Lots of things that we use are made out of rubber including car tyres, balloons and the erasers that you use when you are writing.

Many medicines that we use come from ingredients that are found in the tropical rainforest. These include painkillers and medicine for asthma. Rainforest ingredients are also used in soap, shampoo, bubble bath and makeup.

Did you know?

Chocolate is made from the seeds of the cacao tree. People have been using cacao seeds to make food and drink for nearly 4000 years.

