

The Rockin' Rainforest

Rainforests have lots and lots of rainfall - typically between 98 and 177 inches each year. There are two kinds of rainforests: tropical rainforests and temperate rainforests. Tropical rainforests are sometimes called the Earth's "lungs" because they produce almost 30% of the world's oxygen! There are many animals that call the rainforest their home, as well as millions of plant species and microorganisms. Because of deforestation, the elimination of trees from an area, many of these animals' homes are being destroyed and the animals are becoming extinct. Because of this, it is important to understand the need for rainforests and the wildlife that live in them. Let's learn a little more about rainforests.

Lemur Tail Kabob

Lemurs are rainforest animals that live off the coast of Africa on the island of Madagascar, but you can also find them at the Milwaukee County Zoo! They have distinct yellow/orange eyes and a black and white striped tail. Try this tasty snack inspired by the lemur's tail!



lemur

Ingredients:

- Bananas
- Blackberries
- Wooden food picks

Peel and slice your banana. Alternate putting a banana slice and a blackberry on a wooden pick until you get to the end.

Enjoy!



EMERGENT LAYER

Trees here get lots of sunlight and poke-up over the other trees. Only certain animals can swing this high!

UNDERSTORY LAYER

Leaves and bugs are abundant in the understory, so lots of bug-eaters live here.

FOREST FLOOR

This layer gets very little sunlight and is for animals that can't climb up the trees.

Answers: All About Layers
Emergent layer: spider monkey; Canopy layer: sloth; Understory: yellow banded poison dart frog; Forest floor: jaguar

All about Layers

Tropical rainforests, like the Amazon Rainforest in South America, have four layers, each housing different plants and animals. Can you guess which animals belong where? Draw a line from the animal to its home. (All of these animals can be found at the Milwaukee County Zoo!) Answers on page 12.

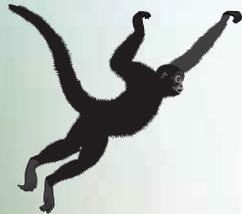
sloth



yellow banded poison dart frog



jaguar



spider monkey

CANOPY LAYER

This layer has dense trees where some animals like to "hang" out.



Did you know?

Orangutans live in the rainforest, but unfortunately, their homes have been devastated by palm oil plantations. Palm oil, which is used in everything from snack food to shampoo, can be found in over half of all packaged items at the supermarket. Because of the deforestation caused by the palm oil industry, orangutans have lost 80% of their habitat in the last 20 years. **To learn more, go to cmzoo.org**, then click on "conservation matters," then "palm oil crisis."

How can you help?

- Purchase items that contain palm oil alternatives, sustainable palm oil or no palm oil.
- Tell your friends about the harmful effects of deforestation.



Make Your Own Rainforest!

What you'll need:

- A medium-to-large-sized empty jar with a lid, such as a large mason jar
- Potting soil or moist dirt from the ground
- Plants (mosses, grasses and ferns work well)
- Small rocks
- Optional: small plastic rainforest animal

Add a small layer of potting soil and rocks so the jar is about $\frac{1}{3}$ full. Then, add your plants; pack them on top so that the roots are meeting the soil. If you'd like, add a toy animal that would live in the rainforest. Cover the jar with the lid, sealing it tightly. Place somewhere bright, with indirect sunlight. Within a few days, the warmth of the trapped sunlight will create water vapor that will fall back down to feed the plants!

