

Animals of the Rain Forest

Zoological Society of Milwaukee
Field Trip Packet – 2nd-3rd Grade

Rain forests are amazing places! Take a trip through a tropical rain forest. The Zoo has many rain forest animals that live throughout the many layers. Learn how these animals are adapted to survive in such a diverse habitat.

Objectives:

- Students will be able to identify animals that live in the rain forest.
- Students will be able to describe each layer of the rain forest.
- Students will be able to name two adaptations that allow animals to live in the rain forest.

Wisconsin Academic Science Standards

- C.4.2 Use the science content being learned to ask questions, plan investigations, make observations, make predictions, and offer explanations
- F.4.1 Discover how each organism meets its basic needs for water, nutrients, protection, and energy* in order to survive



Teacher Background Information

Tropical rain forests are forests with tall trees, warm climate, and lots of rain. Rain forests receive between 60 to 400 inches of rain a year! Tropical rain forests are found along the earth's equator. There are rain forests in Africa, Asia, Australia, and Central and South America. The largest rainforest in the world is the Amazon rain forest.

The rain forest is home to more than 50% of the earth's plants and animals. Rain forests have an abundance of diverse plants and animals because they are "built" in layers. Each layer has its own plants and animals that are adapted to living in that layer. These layers from top to bottom are; the emergent layer, the canopy, the understory, and the forest floor. Animals find their own niche by living in a particular layer of the rain forest. Rain forests are home to some of the world's largest and smallest animals and plants.

Tropical rain forests once covered about 20% of the Earth's land surface. Today, they cover less than 6%. Every second 2.4 acres of the rainforest is lost; this is equivalent to two U.S. football fields. Every day 214,000 acres are lost; an area larger than New York City. The leading cause of this habitat destruction is deforestation.

Many products that we use daily come from the rain forest. Chocolate, vanilla, chewing gum, coffee, cinnamon, rubber, and items found in shampoos, bug sprays, and lotion just to name a few.

Vocabulary

- **Tropical rain forest:** a thick evergreen forest located in the regions between the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn. They are characterized by abundant rainfall and a very warm, humid climate all year round.
- **Ecosystem:** all the living and non-living things in a particular area that depend on one another.
- **Equator:** the imaginary great circle on the earth's surface, everywhere equally distant from the two poles, and dividing the earth's surface into two hemispheres.
- **Emergent:** a tree that grows taller than the canopy trees around it; they may be more than 200 feet tall.
- **Canopy:** the layer of the rain forests formed by the crowns of tall trees. These trees are flat-crowned and often 65-100 feet tall.
- **Understory:** the forest layer beneath the canopy that includes small trees, young canopy trees, shrubs, and herbs.
- **Floor:** the ground layer in a forest
- **Niche:** an animal's function or role in a natural community.
- **Deforestation:** the destruction of a forest. In rain forests, destruction occurs because of agriculture, cattle ranching, mining, and timber harvesting.

Classroom Activity

Materials: The Great Kapok Tree by Lynne Cherry
Flip chart or chalkboard

Read The Great Kapok Tree by Lynne Cherry. Ask the students to name all the speaking animals in the book and make a list of them on the board. Then list each of the reasons the animals gave for not cutting down the rain forest. Discuss each of these reasons with the students. Ask them how each reason would also impact their daily lives. For example, if the bees did not have a tree to live in they would not be able to pollinate the trees and flowers of the rain forest. There are many foods we eat every day that are derived from the rain forest that would not grow without help from the bees.

Classroom Extensions

Give each student a list of materials that come from the rain forest. Have each student bring in two or three items from home that are derived from the rain forest that they use in everyday life.

Create a classroom rain forest mural. Have students add animals to the mural by placing them in the appropriate level; emergent layer, canopy, understory, or forest floor.

Have students brainstorm ways to help protect the rainforest. Recycle, use recycled materials, educate others, support conservation organizations, etc.

Additional Resources

Nature's Green Umbrella - Gail Gibbons
Over in the Jungle – Marianne Berkes
The Rainforest Grew All Around – Susan K. Mitchell
Verdi - Janell Cannon
A is for Anaconda – Anthony D. Fredericks
The Magic School Bus in the Rain Forest – Eva Moore, Joanna Cole

Internet Resources

Classroom activities:

www.eduplace.com/monthlytheme/january/rainforest.html

Video:

www.pbs.org/wnet/nature/episodes/moment-of-impact/video-full-episode-part-2-jungle/5640/

Literacy link:

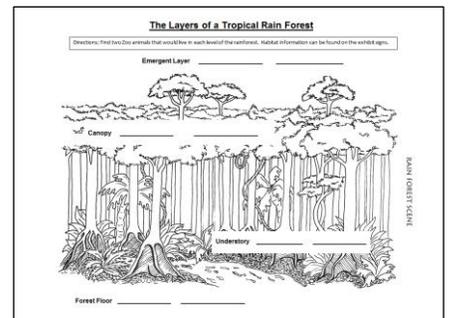
www.scholastic.com/magicschoolbus/parentteacher/activities/rainforest.htm

Zoo Activities

The Layers of the a Tropical Rain Forest

Supplies: worksheet: “The Layers of a Tropical Rain Forest”
writing implements

Directions: Have the students locate and identify animals at the Zoo that live in a tropical rain forest. Each student should write the names of two animals that live in each level of the rain forest on the worksheet.



Rain Forest Animal Adaptations

Supplies: worksheet: “Rain Forest Animal Adaptations”
writing implements

Directions: Students need to find the animals listed on the worksheet in the Zoo. Students should observe each animal and identify which physical adaptations the animal has. They should then mark these adaptations on the chart next to the animal. An animal can have more than one of the adaptations listed.

Directions: Find and look at each of these rain forest animals. Mark the adaptations that they have.

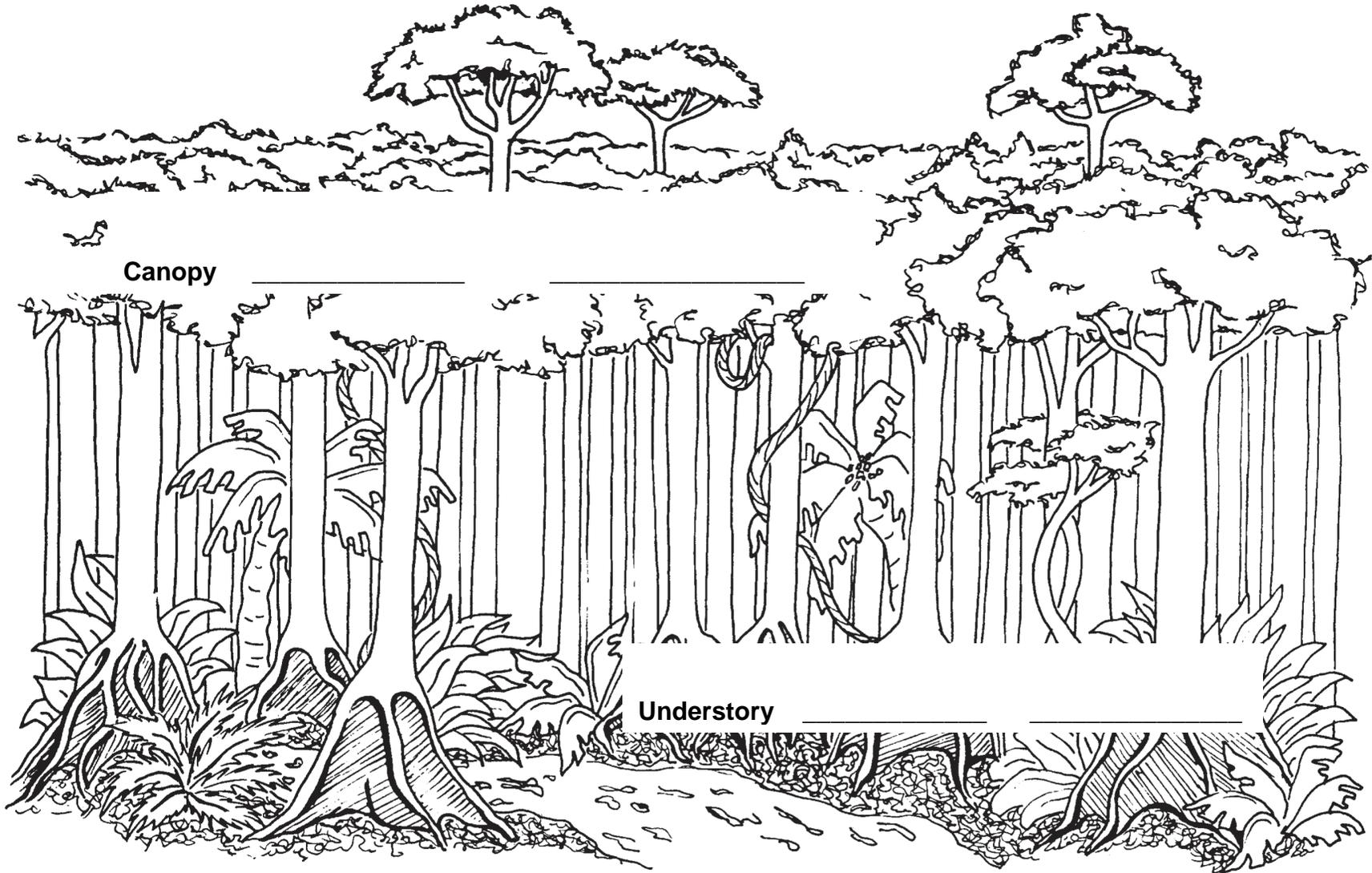
ANIMALS	ADAPTATIONS					
	Tail (for balance)	Long Arms (for hanging)	Flat Feet (to run on trees)	Camouflaged (to hide)	Thick Skin (to keep out insects)	Single claws (to grip onto branches)
Orangutan						
Chimpanzee						
King called lemur						
Tree sloth						
Spider monkey						
Jaguar						
Pink and blue bird						
Tree frog						

RAIN FOREST ANIMAL ADAPTATIONS

The Layers of a Tropical Rain Forest

Directions: Find two Zoo animals that would live in each level of the rainforest. Habitat information can be found on the

Emergent Layer _____



Canopy _____

Understory _____

Forest Floor _____

RAIN FOREST SCENE

Directions: Find and look at each of these rain forest animals. Mark the adaptations that they have.

ANIMALS	ADAPTATIONS						
	Tail (for balance)	Long Arms (for climbing)	Fur/Feathers (to shed rain)	Camouflage (to blend in)	Wings (for flying)	Bright colors (warn predators)	
Orangutan							
Chameleon							
Ring-tailed lemur							
Fruit bat							
Spider monkey							
Jaguar							
Poison dart frog							
Tawny frogmouth							

RAIN FOREST ANIMAL ADAPTATIONS

