

Rainforest Discovery



ZOOLAB

We're going on an adventure to the world's oldest tropical rainforests!

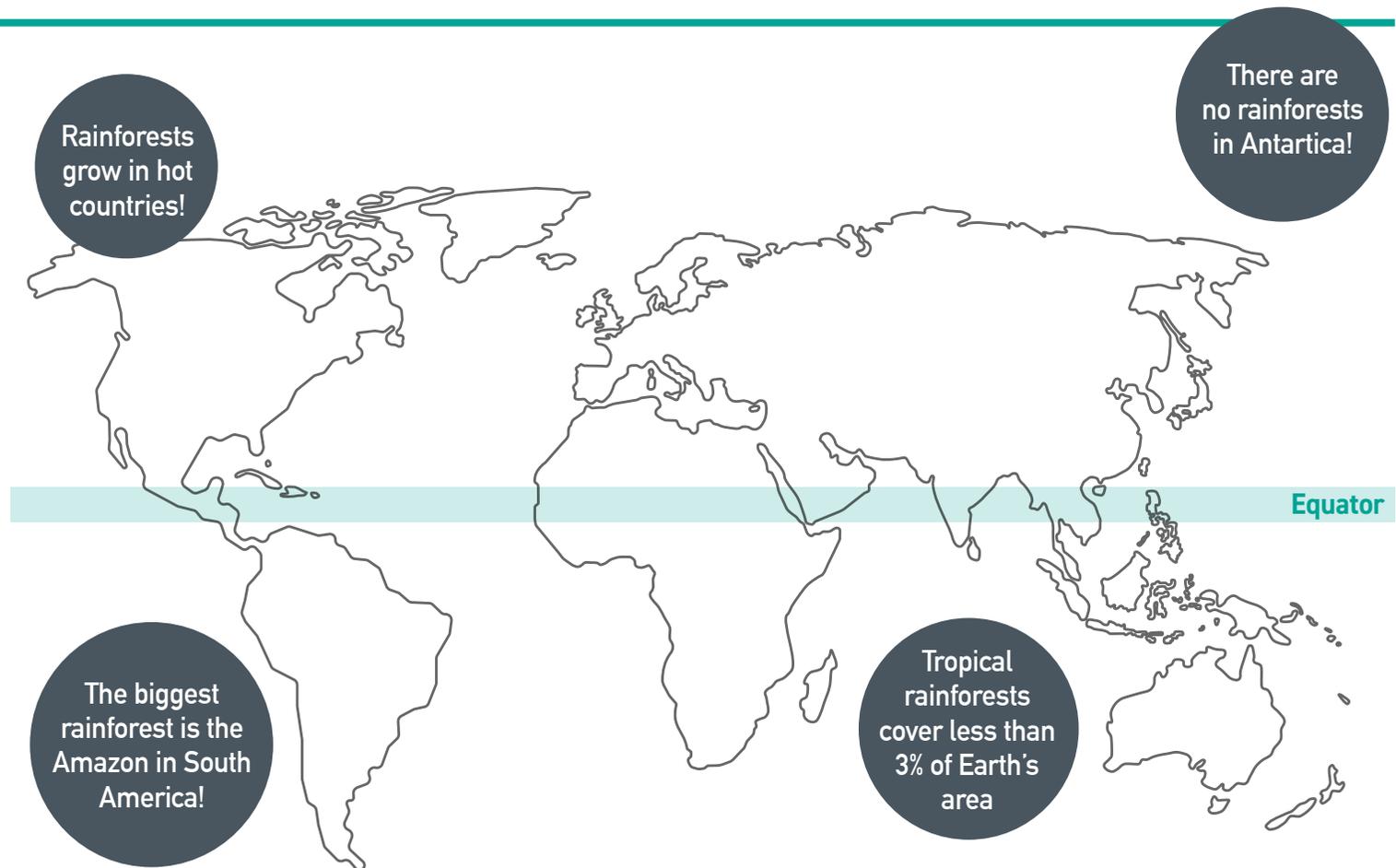
What is a tropical rainforest?

Rainforests are Earth's oldest living ecosystem! They can be found on every continent except Antarctica and have an annual rainfall greater than two meters.

There are two different types of rainforest - temperate and tropical. Tropical rainforests are found near the equator and have an average daily temperature of 28°C - the hot, humid atmosphere creates a unique ecosystem full of biodiversity.

TASK

Where are the world's Rainforests? Colour in all the countries which you think contain rainforests.



QUICK FACTS!

50% of all known species of plants and animals on the earth live in the rainforest.

Rainforests can be found in many countries. They can be found in Alaska and Canada, as well as Asia, Africa and Latin America.

1/4 of natural medicines have been discovered in rainforests.

Rainforest Layers!

I walked through the rainforest, it was hot and sticky. I was walking by the tree _____. This is the _____ floor layer. It is hard to see the sun because of all the trees above. The trees are so tall when I look _____. There are lots of dead _____ and twigs on the floor. Halfway up the _____ is the _____ layer. There are a lot of insects in this layer and _____ wrapped around the trees. There isn't much _____ coming through in this layer either.

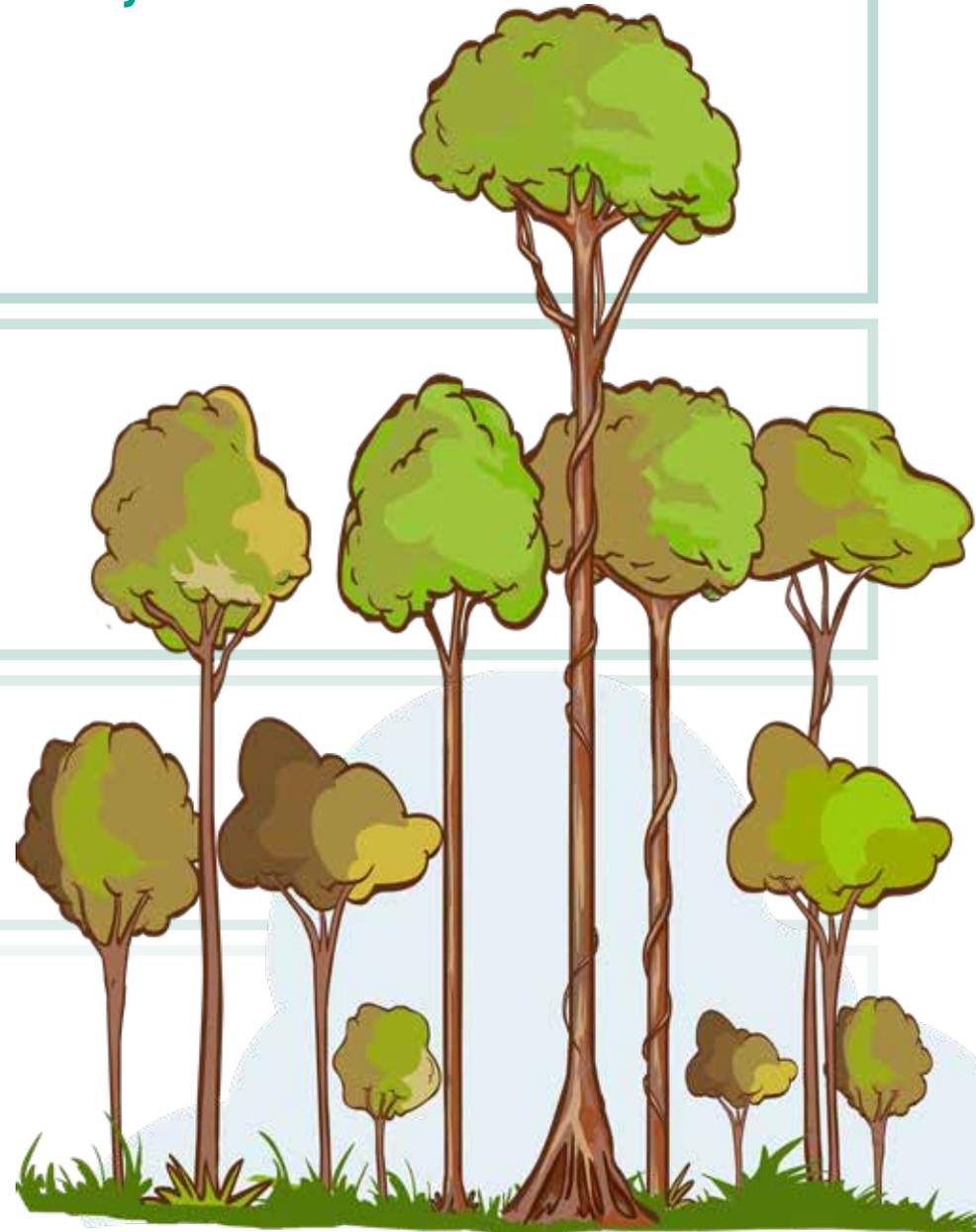
The next layer up is called the _____ layer and is the top of where most of the trees are.

The highest layer is called the _____ layer and it is very _____ up here as there are no trees above.

Sticky	Canopy	Up
Emergent	Forest	Understory
Vines	Roots	Sunny
Light	Tree	Leaves

Name the rainforest layers

Which tropical animals would live in this layer?



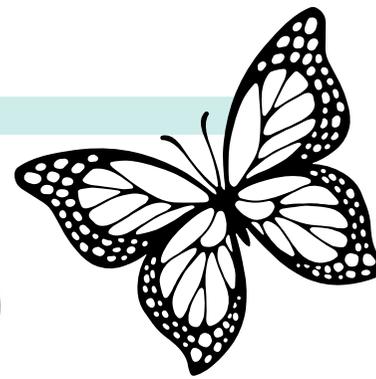
What is a tropical rainforest?

A rainforest is a forest in a hot country where it rains a lot. Lots of animals live there.

TASK

Write the name of the animal on each label and colour them in.

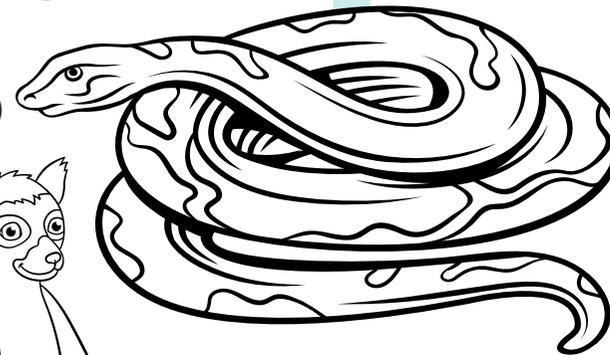
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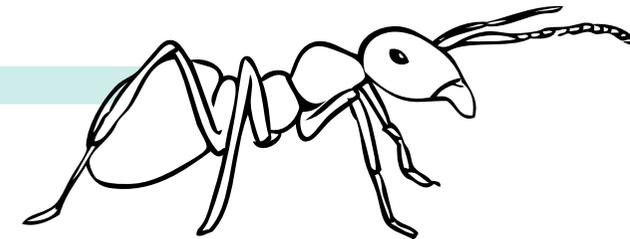
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FILL IN THE BLANKS USING THESE WORDS

- Tree Frog
- Butterfly
- Monkey
- Fruit Bat
- Lemur
- Ant
- Snake

Rainforests grow in hot countries!

QUICK FACTS!

In a tropical rainforest you only get one season. Every day has the same weather. It is always hot and always wet.

Animals use camouflage to blend into their surroundings. This helps them hunt and evade predators.

Measure the snakes

Which snake is the longest? Which is the shortest? Write the length of each snake in the space provided.

TASK

Run some string along the body of each snake. Cut the string to this length. Measure the string using the ruler.

Length:

Length:

Length:

Length:

Length:

Length:

Length:



Rainforest Masks!

What's your favourite rainforest animal? A mischievous monkey? A pretty parrot? A pretty parrot?

TASK

Decorate the mask in the style of the animal, cut it out and imagine you are in the rainforest!





What is deforestation?

Deforestation is the large-scale removal of trees from a forested area to allow the land to be re-purposed.

It can involve the conversion of forest areas to make way for homes, buildings or urban use.

Figures provided by the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organisation estimate that the world's forest area decreased from 31.6% of the global land area to 30.6% between 1990 and 2018.

Where does it occur?

While deforestation occurs all over the world, tropical rainforests are usually the most heavily targeted.

Countries with high deforestation are Brazil, Indonesia, Thailand, and The Democratic Republic of Congo, amongst others. According to the World Resource Institute, Indonesia is the country most affected by deforestation, losing 39 million acres of forest within the last century.



Reasons for deforestation



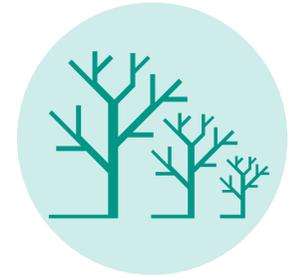
Half of the trees cut down are used for firewood, charcoal or sawdust



Cutting down trees to make room for housing, retail and urban development



Deforestation provides materials like palm oil that are used in a variety of consumer products



Trees are often cut down to make way for land for growing crops and cattle farming.

Deforestation Methods



Burning can be done quickly in large areas, or more slowly using the slash and burn method. This process involves burning smaller areas and using the resulting ash from the fire to grow crops. The ash is full of nutrients and enriches the soil, allowing new trees to grow.



Clear Cutting is when large areas of forest are cut down all at once. Many conservation and citizen groups object to clear-cutting any forest, citing soil and water degradation and other damages. Both of these methods are controversial, as they leave the land completely barren.

QUICK FACTS!

30% of the world's landmass is currently made up of forests.

50% of the world's tropical forests have been cleared already.

15% of all greenhouse gasses come from deforestation.

