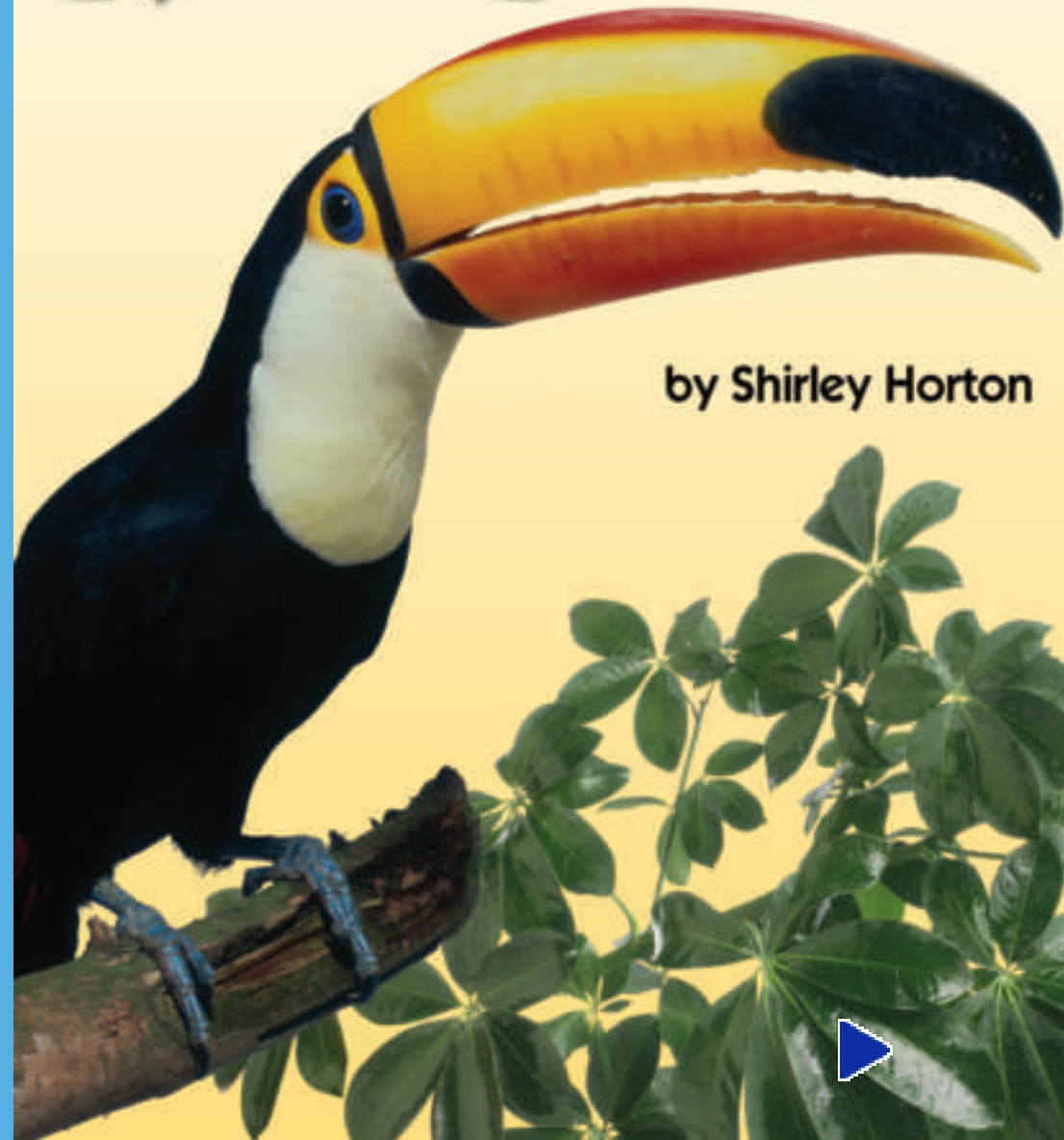


Science

Science

Life Science

LIFE IN A RAIN FOREST



by Shirley Horton

Genre	Comprehension Skill	Text Features	Science Content
Nonfiction	Cause and Effect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Captions • Map • Labels • Glossary 	Plants and Animals

Scott Foresman Science 2.3



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Vocabulary

consumer
food chain
food web
predator
prey
producer

Extended Vocabulary

algae
emergent
equator
layers
nectar
pollen

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LIFE IN A RAIN FOREST

by Shirley Horton





What You Already Know

Plants and animals need each other to live. Sometimes plants and animals help each other find food and shelter. Sometimes they protect each other. Sometimes they eat each other!

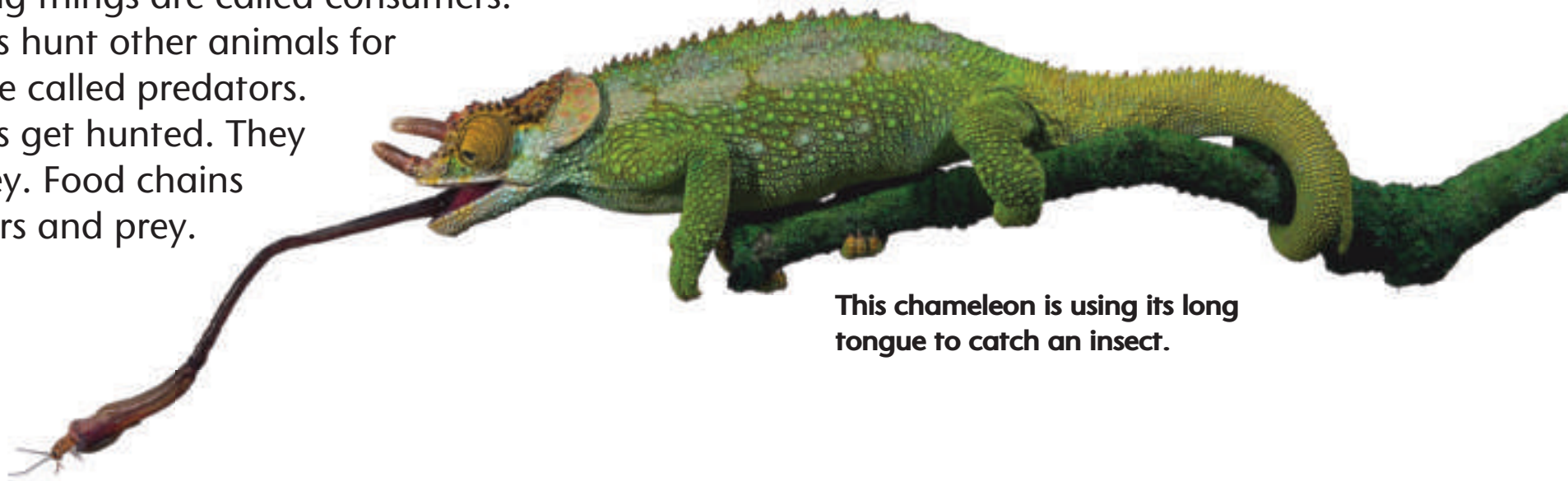
Plants make food with energy from the Sun. Many animals eat plants. Other animals eat these animals. This is called a food chain.

Living things that make their own food, like plants, are called producers. Animals that eat other living things are called consumers. Some animals hunt other animals for food. They are called predators. Some animals get hunted. They are called prey. Food chains have predators and prey.



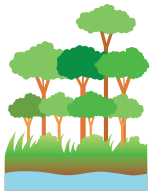
A food web is when many food chains happen in one place. Food webs are found in many environments. Sometimes food webs change.

In this book you will read about how plants and animals live together in a rain forest. You will learn about the parts of a rain forest. You will meet many different plants and animals that live in each part.



This chameleon is using its long tongue to catch an insect.





What is a rain forest?

Look at the map below. The red line is the equator. It is an imaginary line that goes all around the middle of the world. Right over and under the line is where rain forests grow.

Plants in these forests grow tall, thick, and green. This is because the weather there is warm and wet.

There are different layers in a rain forest, like the layers of a cake.



On this map, the dark green places are rain forests.



Rain Forest Layers

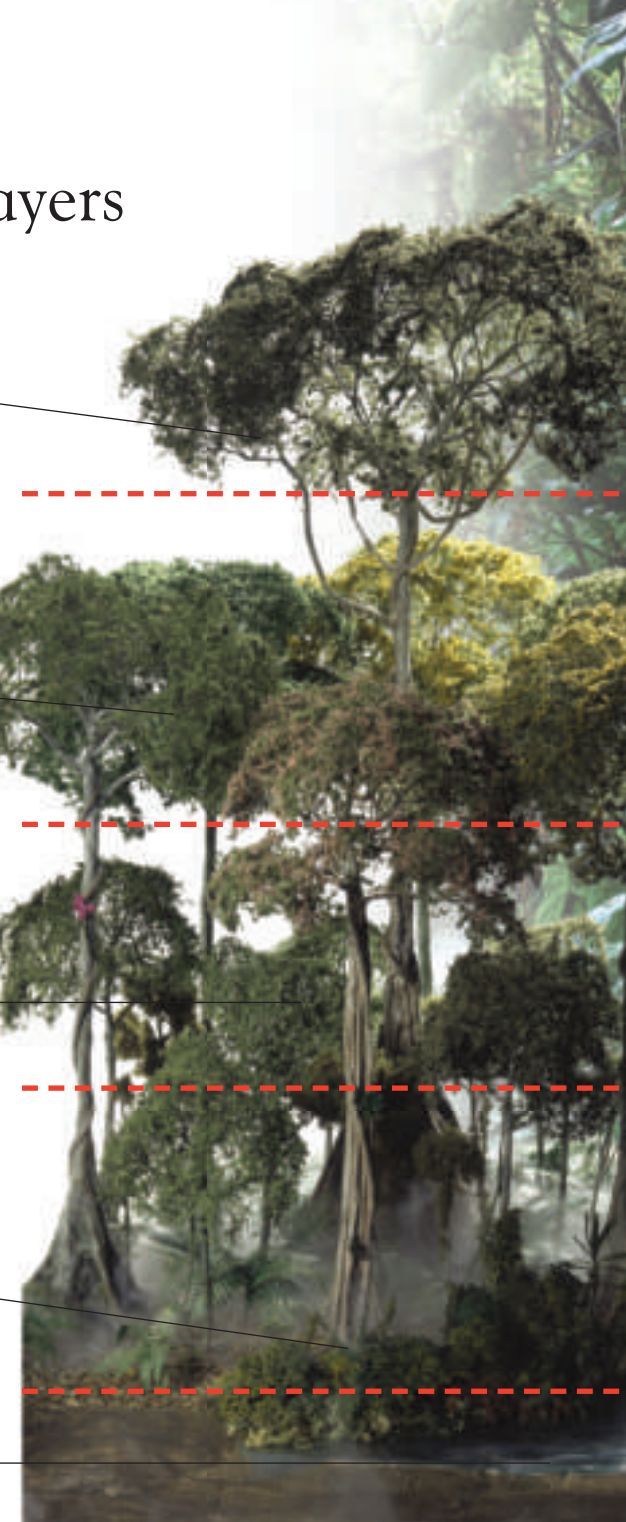
Emergent layer—the tops of the tallest trees reach sunlight and air here.

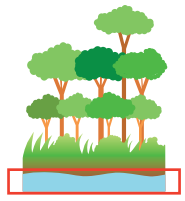
Canopy—the tops of some trees and plants make a lot of shade here.

Understory—the trunks of tall trees and the tops of some short plants reach here.

Forest floor—this is the ground level where trees and plants begin to grow.

Rivers—rainwater runs off forest leaves and branches here.





The River

Many kinds of fish live and lay their eggs in the rivers of rain forests. Most fish eat insects that fall into the water. Archer fish do not wait for their dinner to come to them. They knock insects off low-hanging plants. Then, gulp!



archer fish



Piranhas are fast fish with lots of very sharp teeth. They like nibbling the fins of other fish for food. Snip, snip!

Caimans, like alligators, are water reptiles. When hunting, they can hide under the water with their eyes just above it. Then, snap!

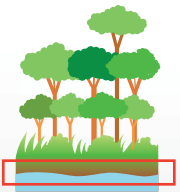


piranha



caiman crocodile





The Riverbank

Tapirs are mammals. They look for plants to eat at night. They have to be careful when they look for food. Predators, such as large snakes and water reptiles, are watching for tapirs to eat!



tapir



Anacondas are big snakes. Sometimes they hunt for food in the river. Other times they hunt in the trees. Anacondas coil around their prey. Then they swallow their prey in one big gulp.

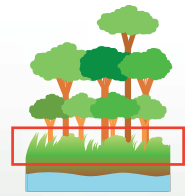


anaconda

Basilisk lizards are small, light, and fast. These reptiles can run across the water on their back legs as they chase their food.

basilisk lizard





The Forest

Gorillas are big apes that live in lowland or mountain rain forests. They spend their days playing, sleeping, and eating on the forest floor. At night, young gorillas sleep in nests in the trees. Other gorillas build their nests on the ground.

gorilla

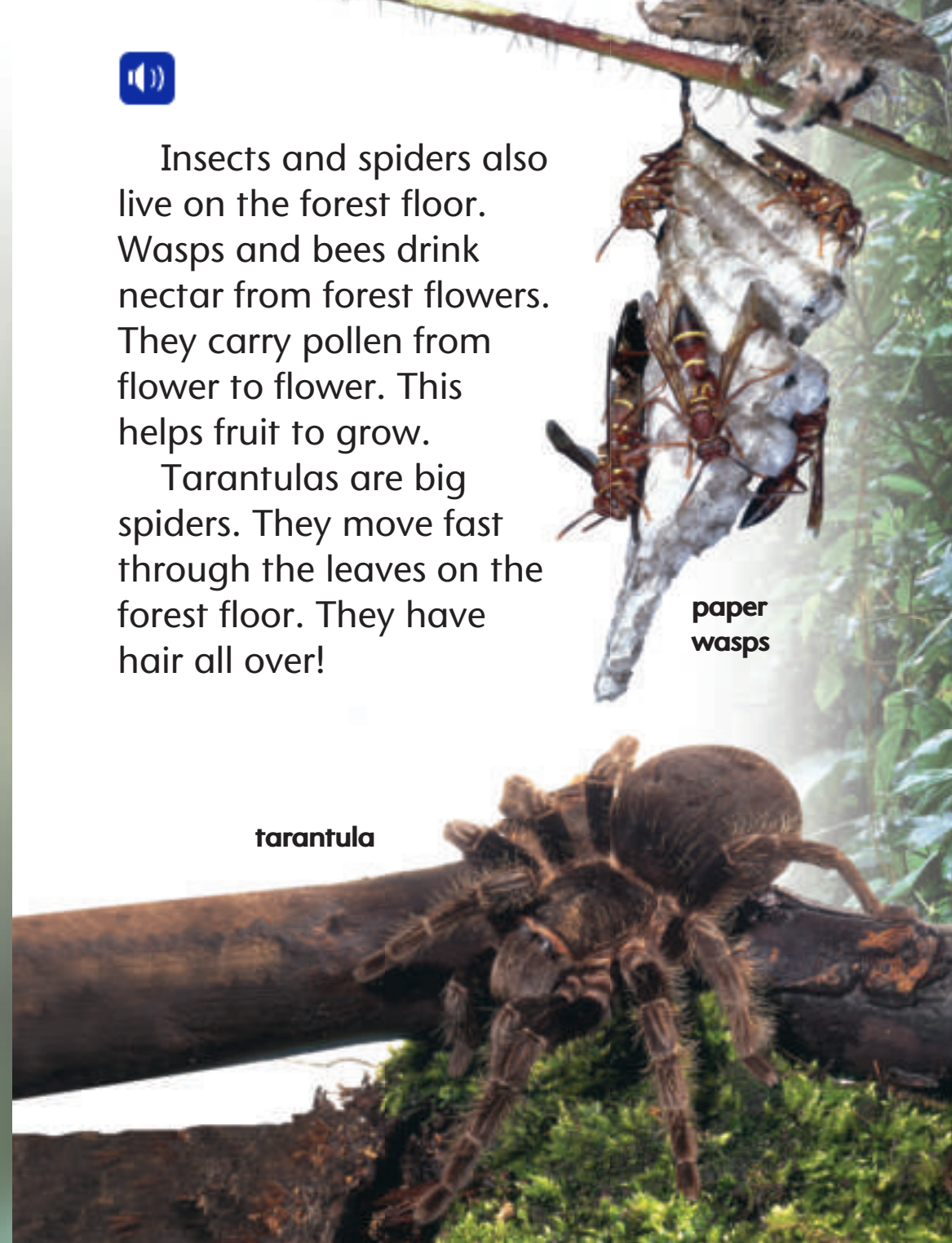


Insects and spiders also live on the forest floor. Wasps and bees drink nectar from forest flowers. They carry pollen from flower to flower. This helps fruit to grow.

Tarantulas are big spiders. They move fast through the leaves on the forest floor. They have hair all over!

paper wasps

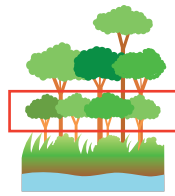
tarantula





Some flowers grow on the dark forest floor. Rafflesia (rah-FLEE-zhah) flowers have no stems or leaves. They live on the roots or stems of other plants. Rafflesias are the largest flowers ever found.

rafflesia



The Understory

Some of the animals that live among the leaves, branches, and vines of the understory never go down to the forest floor. Bats sleep in the day, hanging from branches. At night they zip through the trees hunting for food. Some bats eat only insects. Others, like this vampire bat, eat animal blood.

vampire bat





Many plants growing from branches in the understory are shaped like cups. These plants can hold rainwater. Tree frogs lay their eggs in these plant cups. The frogs also hide in these plants to wait for insects to fly by. They eat the insects they catch.



red-eyed tree frog



golden tree boa



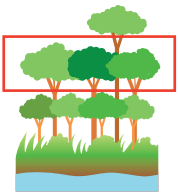
Chameleons are lizards. They change their colors to look like the forest around them. This camouflage helps them stay safe.

Boas are snakes that curl up in tree branches. They trap birds and lizards that get too close. Then they strike, squeeze, and swallow.



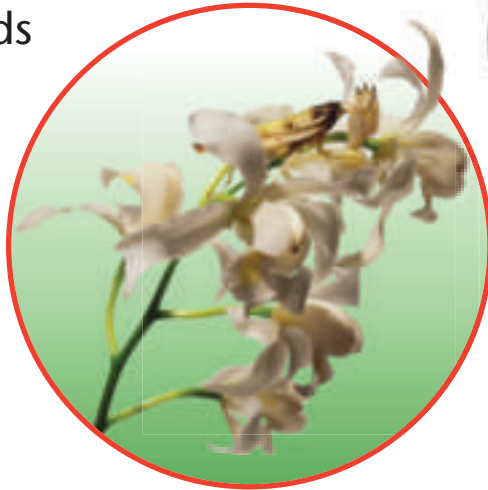
chameleon





The Canopy

Lots of different kinds of orchids grow in the canopy. People around the world love these beautiful flowers. People take these flowers to many other places to grow.



orchid



sloth



Many swinging and flying animals live in the canopy. Tiny green plants called algae grow in the hair of big sloths. These plants grow because a sloth's fur is wet from the rain.

Unlike other canopy birds, toucans have very long beaks. Their beaks are long, but they are very light.

toucan



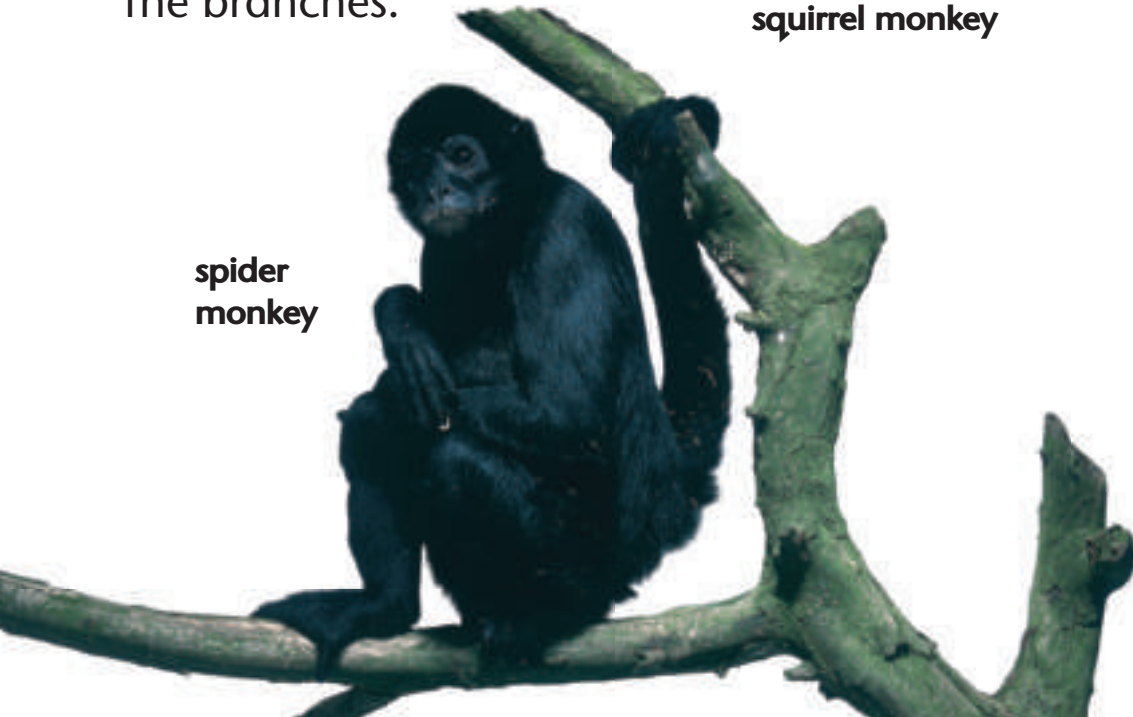


Monkeys live in the canopy too. These animals swing and leap through their treetop homes. They are made to move well in the trees. They have long arms and tails. They have hands and feet that can grip the branches.



squirrel monkey

spider monkey

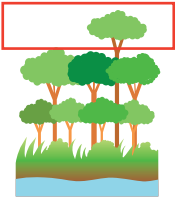


Monkeys can stay safe in their treetop homes. As long as they stay up in the trees, they cannot be eaten!

Gibbons are small apes. They are like monkeys in many ways but they have no tails.

siamang gibbon





The Emergent Layer

Rain forest butterflies fly in the emergent layer. The blue morpho butterfly is easy to spot. It is bright blue. Predators are fooled by the way this butterfly looks. Predators think it is a flower. They stay away and the butterfly stays safe.



blue morpho butterfly



Marmosets are little monkeys that eat insects and fruit. They can move through the treetops. They cannot hold on with their tails and hands as well as other monkeys.



marmoset

Colobus monkeys almost never go down to the floor of the forest. They find most of the food they eat in the trees. These monkeys have very long tails to help them move in the trees.

colobus monkey





These birds are parrots. They fly through the emergent layer to find food. They make loud noises as they fly. Parrots and their eggs are the prey of many forest animals. They are also hunted by people who sell them as pets.



parakeet



macaw

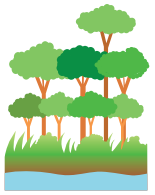


rainbow lorikeet



If you ever visit a rain forest, watch for these beautiful birds and for the other animals you have read about. You will not see them all in the same rain forest. At first, you may not even see any of them. But keep watching. Some of them will be watching you!





Glossary

algae	tiny plants that grow in water
emergent	coming up into the sunlight
equator	an imaginary circle around the middle of the Earth
layers	parts that go on top of one another
nectar	a sweet liquid found in many flowers
pollen	a fine powder that comes from flowers

What did you learn?

1. What are the layers of a rain forest?
2. How do archer fish get food?
3. **Writing in Science** Monkeys live in the canopy of the rain forest. Write to explain how their bodies help them live in the trees. Use words from this book as you write.
4. **Cause and Effect** What might happen if a bird or a lizard gets too close to a boa?

