

Discover the Rain Forest!

Many animals live in a tropical rain forest. Some of them have bright colors. The red-eyed tree frog is one of those animals.

What are some others?

What a Colorful Place!

A tropical rain forest is a warm, wet place. It is a home for many animals. Many kinds of plants grow there too. Read about the layers of a rain forest.



USDA.com

A leaf-cutting ant uses leaves to make a tent for shelter.

The **emergent layer** is the top layer. It is made up of the tops of the very tallest trees. It is home to many birds and insects. Macaws fly up in the trees here. They like to call loudly to each other. These birds eat fruits, nuts, and flowers.

The **canopy** is made up of the tops of most other rain forest trees. It is home to many animals. Sloths hang upside down from tree branches here. Big, strong claws on the sloth's feet help it grab a branch. The furry sloth does not move much.



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Jaguars live in the understory
of the rain forest.

The **understory** is a dark, cool layer under the leaves of many trees. Emerald tree boas wrap around branches of trees here. The boa hunts at night to catch birds and other small animals. This snake can open its jaws wide enough to swallow a bird whole!

The **forest floor** is dark and damp. Not much sunlight reaches it. Leaf-cutter ants work hard here, using their sharp jaws to cut pieces of leaves. This ant carries leaves that are 20 times its weight. That is like a person carrying a 1-ton load!

Name: _____ Date: _____

Directions: Answer the following four questions based on the information in the passage.

1. How does the passage describe the rain forest?

2. What are the four layers in the rain forest?

3. Based on the information in the passage, why don't macaws live on the forest floor?

4. What is this passage mostly about?

Directions: Please read the sentence below and then write the word or phrase that best answers the questions. The first answer has been provided for you.

Boas hunt for birds at night in the understory.

What? boas

5. (do) What?

6. When?

7. Where?

8. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the word that best completes the sentence.

Sloths live in the canopy of the rain forest, _____ jaguars live in the understory.

- A but
- B because
- C so

Directions: Read the vocabulary word and definition below. Then answer questions 9 and 10.

Vocabulary Word: **damp** (damp): slightly wet.

9. Read the sentences below and underline all forms of the word **damp**.
- a. My clothes were still damp when they came out of the dryer, so I put them back in to dry completely.
 - b. Rain was drizzling outside, so my hair got a little damp.
 - c. My mom asked me to use a damp cloth to wipe off the dirty table.
 - d. A few days after I spilled water on my bed, my mattress was still damp.
 - e. Because the box had been left out in the rain, it was damp.

10. Which clothing is more likely to be damp?



Teacher Guide and Answer Key

Passage Reading Level: Lexile 600

Featured Text Structure: Descriptive – the writer explains, defines, or illustrates a concept or topic

Passage Summary: The passage describes the rain forest and details what the different layers are (emergent, canopy, understory, and forest floor) as well as some animals that live in each layer.

To the Teacher: Read the passage aloud to the class [TIP: while reading aloud, show the passage on a whiteboard or give students a copy of the passage so that they can follow along].

Then, use the text-dependent questions 1-8 to facilitate a whole class discussion to ensure students comprehend the key details from the passage.

Finally, use questions 9-10 to deep teach one important vocabulary word [TIP: you can use the model provided for teaching additional vocabulary].

1. How does the passage describe the rain forest? [Important Detail]

Suggested answer: Rain forests are warm, wet places. [paragraph 2]

2. What are the four layers in the rain forest? [Important Detail]

Suggested answer: The rain forest's four layers are the emergent layer, the canopy, the understory, and the forest floor. [paragraphs 3, 4, 5, 6]

3. Based on the information in the passage, why don't macaws live on the forest floor? [Inferential]

Suggested answer: Macaws are birds that fly through the forest trees. They are not suited to living on the ground. [paragraph 3]

4. What is this passage mostly about? [Main Idea]

Suggested answer: The passage is about the different layers in the rain forest and some of the animals that live in each layer.

Directions: Please read the sentence below and then write the word or phrase that best answers the questions. The first answer has been provided for you.

Boas hunt for birds at night in the understory.

What? boas

5. (do) What? **hunt for birds**

6. When? **at night**

7. Where? **in the understory**

8. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the word that best completes the sentence.

Sloths live in the canopy of the rain forest, _____ jaguars live in the understory.

A but

B because

C so

To the Teacher: ReadWorks recommends that you teach this vocabulary word to the whole class out loud using the four steps listed below.

Vocabulary Word: **damp** (damp): slightly wet.

Step 1: Introduce the word

- a. Teacher writes the word on the board and divides it into syllables: (damp)
- b. Teacher says: "This word is damp. What is the word?" [All students reply together out loud: "damp."]

Step 2: Provide a child-friendly definition

- a. Teacher says: "Damp means slightly wet."
- b. Teacher says: "The passage discusses the different layers of a rain forest. The bottom layer, the forest floor, is a little wet. It is damp."
- c. Teacher says: "What is the word?" [All students reply together out loud: "damp."]

Step 3: Practice the word

Teacher provides examples and additional opportunities to repeat the word. Read the first sentence out loud to your students. Begin reading it again and when you come to the vocabulary word prompt students to say the vocabulary word out loud. Then, finish reading the sentence out loud to your students.

Directions: Read the vocabulary word and definition below. Then answer questions 9 and 10.

Vocabulary Word: **damp** (damp): slightly wet.

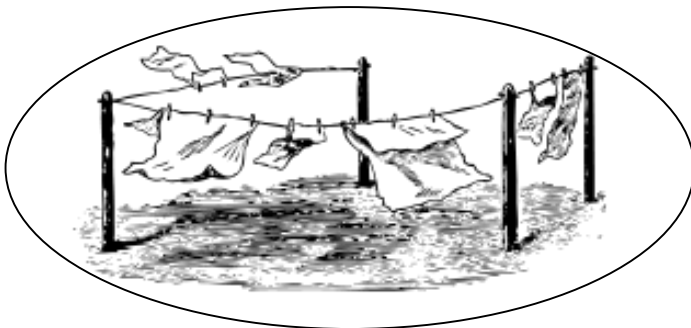
9. Read the sentences below and underline all forms of the word **damp**.

- a. My clothes were still damp when they came out of the dryer, so I put them back in to dry completely.
- b. Rain was drizzling outside, so my hair got a little damp.
- c. My mom asked me to use a damp cloth to wipe off the dirty table.
- d. A few days after I spilled water on my bed, my mattress was still damp.
- e. Because the box had been left out in the rain, it was damp.

Step 4: Check for student understanding

To the Teacher: This step can be completed as a whole class activity or as an independent practice.

10. Which clothing is more likely to be damp?



Suggested Additional Vocabulary: tropical, layer