

Rainforest Plants & Animals

Blue Morpho
The wings of the blue morpho (MORE fish) butterfly are blue on the top and brown on the bottom. The bottom wings look like they have eyes on them. This is to scare predators away. These butterflies live in all the layers of the rainforests of central and South America.

Giant Millipede
The giant millipede lives in burrows in the rainforest floor in Africa. They are also found under rocks, and on shrubs. They can smell and taste with every part of their body! Each is 15 inches in length. Each has a total of 256 legs. They are so fat they can't move if they don't close, so if their body is crushed, they will die.

Arum Titan
The arum titan is the largest tropical flower in the world. It begins as a large corn (a thick root) that can weigh 200 pounds! It takes ten years for the plant to produce one flower, and it may never flower again. The flower starts as a spike that rises nine feet into the air. Then a frilly spathe opens around the base. The plant gives off a nasty smell (think rotting eggs, or dead fish). This smell attracts insects, which it traps by closing its spathe. After releasing its pollen, the spathe falls back up to free the insects for pollination. Colorful red fruits grow on the stem after the spathe has emerged.

Piranha
Piranhas (jaws Ah nuh) live in the waters of South America. They eat meat (carnivores), but they may also eat plants. They usually eat insects and small fish. They have razor sharp teeth that lock together when their jaws are closed.

Lianas
Lianas are very long vines. They grab onto trees with tendrils. They are strong, woody stems. Animals climb on them.

Ferns
Many rainforest ferns are epiphytes, taking their nutrients from the air, rather than the soil. The floor of the rainforest is often too dark to support much plant life, so the ferns grow on the trees, up near the emergent layer, where they can get needed light. Staghorn, Bird's Nest, and Elk Horn ferns are common epiphytic ferns. Their roots wrap around the trunks and branches of the trees, taking nutrients from the tree itself, from the air, and the rain. Maidenhair, King, and Tree ferns may grow on the forest floor.

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Anaconda
Anacondas (AN uh CON duh) are a boa constrictor (BO uh con STRIK er). They live along the rivers of the Amazon rainforest. Constrictors kill their prey by squeezing it to cut off its air. They swallow their prey whole! It can take up to 40 days for this snake to digest one big meal. Anacondas eat frogs, toads, birds, caiman, pigs, and deer. They are the only animals that prey on jaguars! Anacondas are good swimmers—that's what their name means. They spend most of their time hiding or swimming in slow waters, but they can also climb trees. They are 20 feet long.

Ferns
Ferns need water, air, and food. They need a little sunlight. Some ferns grow on trees. Some ferns grow on the ground.

Lianas
Lianas (lee AH nuh) are vines with woody stems that grow in the shallow ground of the rainforest. They grab onto trees with tendrils that wrap around the tree trunks. They can climb up the trees to the top of the canopy where they get the most sunlight. They wrap around many trees in the stand up since their roots can't grow in the soil.

Tiger
A tiger is a big, wild cat. It purrs, and it roars. You can hear it from far away. The tiger hunts at night. It eats monkeys, pigs, and deer.

Red Eyed Tree Frog
Rainforest frogs with the scarlet eyes are mainly found in Central America. Their red eyes warn predators to keep away! During the day, these tree frogs hang underneath leaves, using the tiny "suction cups" on their toes to keep them secure, so their brightly colored bodies are safely out of sight. Many of the animals that feed on this frog hunt at night. They are startled by the frog's bright colors, giving it time to hop away. These frogs are not venomous. They hunt crickets and small insects at night, as they reach out with their long, sticky tongues.

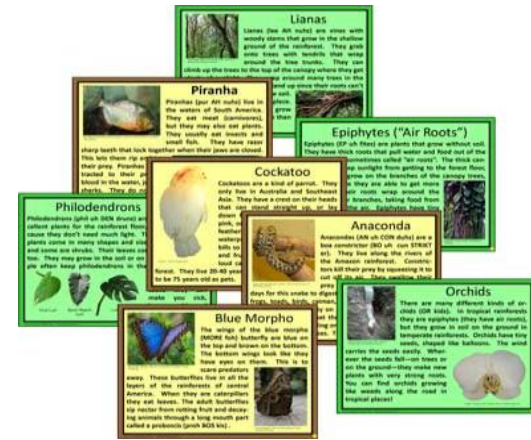
Carnivorous
Pitcher plants usually get their food from the soil. In the rainforest, where the soil is thin, there are many plants that have solved this problem. Carnivorous plants have evolved to get their nutrients from animals. They form a round, hollow trap with a slippery nectar. Insects attracted by the nectar's smell, land on the slippery substance, and fall into a liquid at the bottom of the leaf which traps, and digests, them. These plants grow like a vine and can climb 30 feet up a tree's trunk. Some really large pitcher plants trap small mammals and reptiles!

Thanks for taking the time to check out this Rainforest product. I hope you and your kids will enjoy the sample cards included!

Information Display Cards
Preschool, Primary, Elementary Levels

A Rainforest Rendezvous:

Museum Display Cards: Sample



These Museum Display cards are patterned after the information presented in museums to explain displayed items. They present information about some of the plants and animals that live in the rainforests. The sets are color coded so you can use multiple reading levels in the same classroom, and easily sort them when you are finished (see the colored bar above, and the dots on the bottom corner of each card). You can:

- mount the cards on your classroom wall,
- place them in a pile on a center table for students to leaf through,
- bind them into a reference book,
- or use them with the whole class, one at a time, to introduce a new topic of study.

The cards can be used to introduce, teach, and reinforce

- a variety of language arts skills such as sentences, paragraphs, use of periods, commas, capitals, and exclamation marks,
- reading skills,
- writing skills,
- information on specific rainforest plants and animals,
- museum skills.

They may also be used as a model to help students create their own display cards which you may add to your museum collection for future classes to enjoy. (A Microsoft Word® Template is included so that students may publish their own work in a matching format.)

Preparation:

1. Run off the cards you wish to use on photo paper (for best results), cover stock, tag, or heavy white drawing paper.
2. Laminate.
3. Cut apart.
4. Place in your museum or classroom center.

Tiger

A tiger is a big, wild cat.
It purrs, and it roars.
You can hear it from far away.



The tiger hunts
at night. It eats

s, pigs,
r.

Bamboo



Roots

Roots hold trees in the

Lianas



Lianas are very long vines. They
grab onto trees with tendrils.

They are s

Animals climb on them.

Birds sit on them.

People can swing on them.

Lianas help trees to stand

Chameleons



Chameleons live in many places.
They use camouflage to hide.

Their skin turns bright colors when they are hot
or upset.



They have a sticky
tongue to help them
catch bugs.

Praying Mantis

A praying mantis is an
arthropod. It hides in leaves to
wait for prey. It grabs its prey
with hooks on its legs.



A mantis can
punch with its
front legs when
it is scared.

Ferns

Ferns grow in shady places.
They like lots of water.



They need water, air, and
they need a little



Some ferns grow on trees.
Some ferns grow on the
ground.

22 Cards

Preschool-1st Grade

Grades

2-3

24 Cards: 12 plants 12 animals



Lianas

Lianas (lee AH nuhz) are vines with woody stems that grow in the shallow ground of the rainforest. They grab onto trees with tendrils that wrap around the tree trunks. They can climb up the trees to the top of the canopy where they get lots of sunlight. They wrap around many trees in the forest and stand up since their roots can't

grow soil.
place.
grow
than



Piranha

Piranhas (pur AH nuhz) live in the waters of South America. They eat meat (carnivores), but they may also eat plants. They usually eat insects and small fish. They have razor

sharp teeth that lock together when their jaws are closed. This lets them rip apart their prey. Piranhas are attracted to their prey's blood in the water, just like sharks. They do not



Cockatoo

Cockatoos are a kind of parrot. They only live in Australia and Southeast Asia. They have a crest on their heads that can stand straight up, or lay

down. Their feathers are pink, orange, or yellow. They have long bills so they can eat hard and crunchy food. They live 20-40 years in the wild, but can be 75 years old as pets.

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Anaconda

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prey

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at the
ing on
ees. T



Epiphytes ("Air Roots")

Epiphytes (EP uh fites) are plants that grow without soil. They have thick roots that pull water and food out of the air. Sometimes called "air roots". The thick canopy prevents sunlight from getting to the forest floor, so plants grow on the branches of the canopy trees, where they are able to get more sunlight. Their roots wrap around the tree branches, taking food from the air. Epiphytes have tiny

Philodendrons

Philodendrons (phil uh DEN drunz) are excellent plants for the rainforest floor, because they don't need much light. These plants come in many shapes and sizes and some are shrubs. Their leaves come in many shapes and sizes too. They may grow in the soil or on trees. People often keep philodendrons in their homes.



Oval Leaf Spear Shaped Leaf Lobed Leaf



Blue Morpho

The wings of the blue morpho (MORE foh) butterfly are blue on the top and brown on the bottom. The bottom wings look like they have eyes on them. This is to scare predators

away. These butterflies live in all the layers of the rainforests of central America. When they are caterpillars they eat leaves. The adult butterflies sip nectar from rotting fruit and decaying animals through a long mouth part called a proboscis (proh BOS kis).



Brown Butterfly Photo by Robert Dight via National Geographic

Orchids



Orchid Seedling Photo by Robert Dight via National Geographic

There are many different kinds of orchids (OR kidz). In tropical rainforests they are epiphytes (they have air roots), but they grow in soil on the ground in temperate rainforests. Orchids have tiny seeds, shaped like balloons. The wind

carries the seeds easily. Wherever the seeds fall—on trees or on the ground—they make new plants with very strong roots. You can find orchids growing like weeds along the road in tropical places!



Orchid Photo by Robert Dight via National Geographic

Grades 4-6

Epiphytes

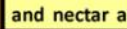
Epiphytes are plants that don't need soil to grow. They have thick, absorbing roots that are able to pull moisture and nutrients out of the rain and air. They are sometimes called "air roots". Because there is so little light on the

...y plants grow on the canopy trees, ... are able to get needed ... wrap around the tree's ... absorbing minerals from ... es from the tree itself. ... y, wind-carried seeds ... le noo ... ves an ... l for fo



Livingstone's Fruit Bat

Livingstone's fruit bats are one of the largest of the bat species, and the most endangered. They are only found on two islands off the east coast of Africa, the Comoros. They have a wing span of 4-5 feet! Fruit bats are often called "flying foxes" because of the shape of their nose and their reddish fur. During the day, they roost in the tops of the canopy trees. When dusk comes, they fly off in search of trees filled with fruit. They get



and nectar all night, returning

Carnivorous Plants

Plants usually get their food from the soil, but in the rainforest, where the soil is thin, there aren't many nutrients. Carnivorous plants have solved this problem by finding a way to get their nutrients from animals. The leaves of the pitcher plant form a round, hollow cup. The edge of the

...perly nectar. In- ... ctar's smell, land ... e, and fall into a ... the leaf which These plants ... limb 30 feet up a ... lly large pitcher ... s and reptiles!



Giant Millipede

The giant millipede lives in burrows in the rainforest floor in Africa. They are also found under rocks, and on shrubs. They can smell and taste with every part of their body!



The giant millipede grows to 15 inches in length. Each joint in its body has two legs, for a total of 256 legs. They breathe through small holes which don't close, so if their environment becomes too wet, they will drown. Millipede's weak jaws and eat decaying fruit and other ... feeding at night. When they need to protect ... they curl up into a ball, and secrete a smelly, ... uid which predators don't like!

Poison Dart Frogs

Brilliantly colored frogs are found in the rainforests of Central and South America, and Hawaii. Their bright colors scare enemies. Their skin contains toxins, although only 3 kinds are deadly to humans. Native people put the toxins on the tips of their arrows and



... darts to ma ... the food t ... small insect ... The insects ... frogs are no ... rainforest p

Goliath Birdeater

This tarantula lives in deep burrows on the rainforest floor in South America. It can grow to be 4-5 inches in length. Females live 15-20 years, but males usually only live 3-6 years. They eat insects, and some



... mals like rodents, lizards, bats, and s ... birds! They hunt at night by stalki ... the right mom ... of their mea ... through their ... prey's insides ... tarantulas suc ... ened, they rub ... lease hairs that

Arum Titan

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Red Eyed Tree Frog

... rainforest frogs with the scarlet eyes are mainly ... in Central America. Their red eyes warn predators ... away! During the day, these tree frogs hang un- ... ction cups" on their ... brightly colored bodies ... animals that feed on



Ferns

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24 Cards:
12 plants
12 animals

Chameleons



Chameleon: Photo by Sandra Fehler, via Public Domain Pictures.net..

**Chameleons live in many places.
They use camouflage to hide.**

**Their skin turns bright colors when they are hot
or upset.**



Jackson's Chameleon: Photo by Rich Torres, via Wikimedia Commons.

**They have a sticky
tongue to help them
catch bugs.**



Red Bellied Piranha (Serrasalmus nattereri): Photo by Trisha M. Shears, via Wikimedia Commons.

Piranha

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sharp teeth that lock together when their jaws are closed. This lets them rip and tear their prey. Piranhas are attracted to their prey by blood in the water, just like sharks. They do not usually attack live people.



Piranha: Photo by Aurelie Chaumat, via Wikimedia Commons.

Carnivorous Plants

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Pitcher plant: Photo by Benjamin Evans, via Wikimedia Commons.