



Oxford Read and Discover

Life in Rainforests

Cheryl Palin

Read and discover all about life in tropical rainforests ...

- What is the biggest tropical rainforest?
- Where do orang-utans sleep?

Read and discover more about the world! This series of non-fiction readers provides interesting and educational content, with activities and project work.

Series Editor: Hazel Geatches

Audio CD Pack available

Word count for this reader: 1,395



Level 3
600 headwords



Level 5
900 headwords



Level 4
750 headwords



Level 6
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Introduction

A tropical rainforest is a forest of tall trees that's warm all year. It's called a rainforest because it usually rains every day. It can rain more than 250 centimeters in one year. Many amazing animals and plants live in rainforests.



tarantula



hummingbird



sloth



kapok tree

What do you know about tropical rainforests?
How tall is a kapok tree?
How long does a sloth sleep every day?
How many eyes does a tarantula have?
What do hummingbirds drink?



Now read and discover more about life in tropical rainforests!

1

Tropical Rainforests

All the tropical rainforests are near the equator. Most of them are in the Tropics. The biggest tropical rainforest is the Amazon rainforest in South America. The second biggest is the Congo rainforest in Africa. South Asia also has lots of tropical rainforests. There are smaller rainforests in Central America, Madagascar, India, Australia, and on the islands near Australia.

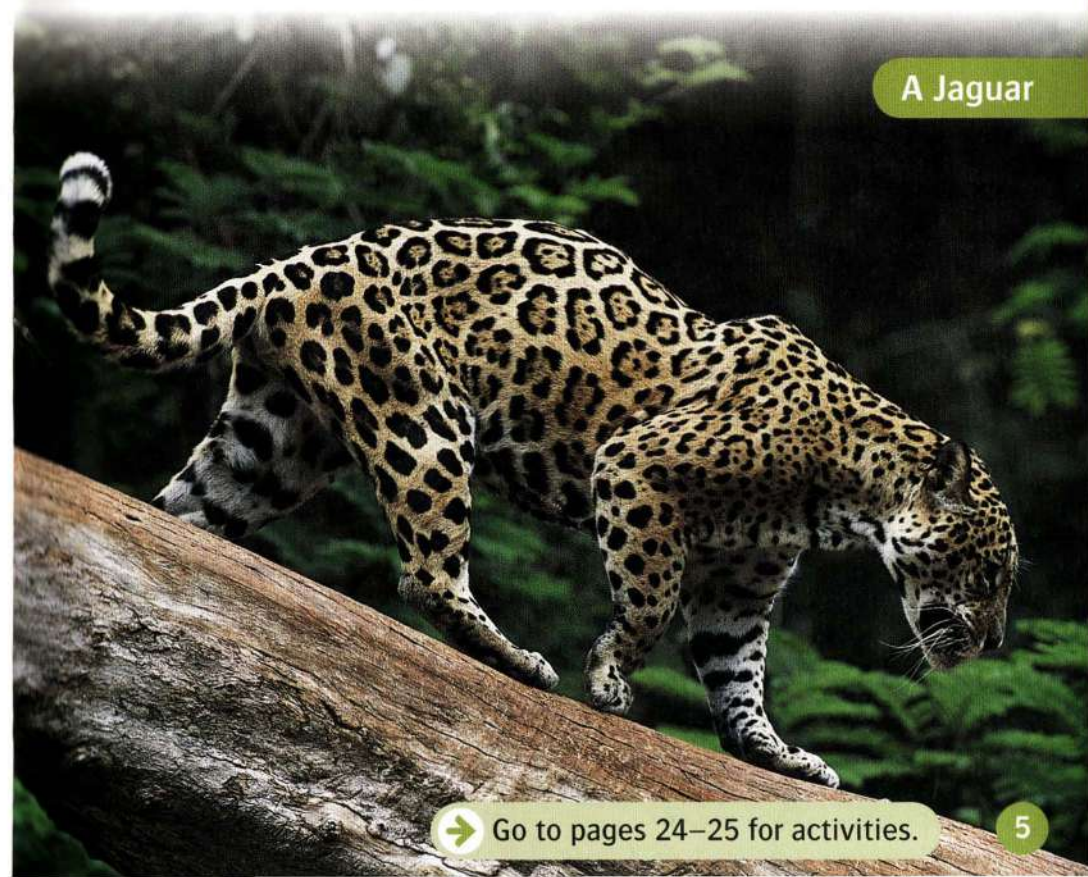
Tropical Rainforests on Earth



Tropical rainforests cover only about 6 percent (%) of Earth, but they have 50% of all the different types of animal and plant that we know. About 10 square kilometers of rainforest can have 750 types of tree, 1,500 types of other plant, 400 types of bird, and 150 types of butterfly.

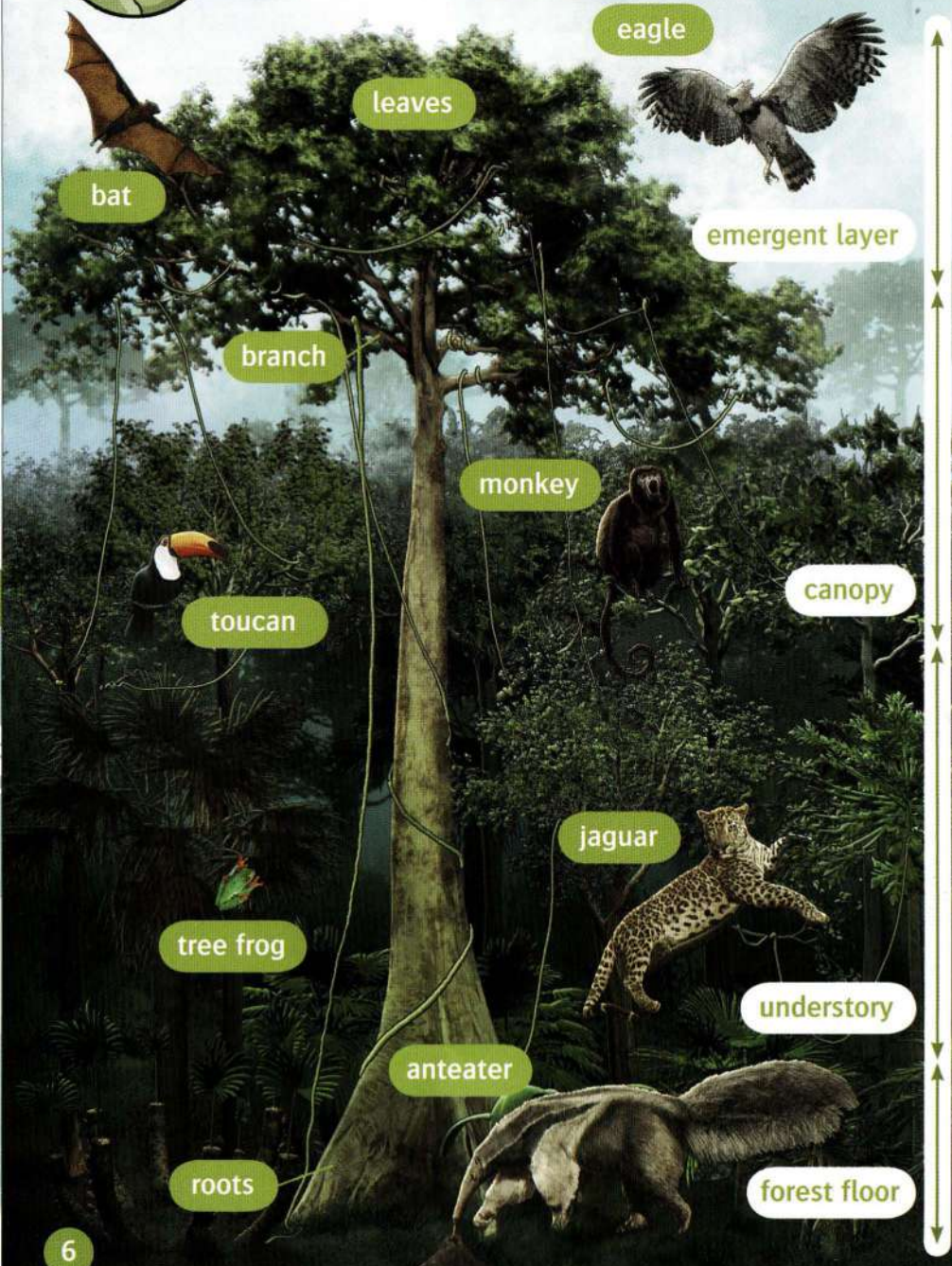
Some very big animals live in tropical rainforests. Jaguars are the biggest cats in the Amazon rainforest.

A Jaguar



2

Rainforest Layers



Tropical rainforests have layers. The top layer is the emergent layer. The tops of the tallest trees are in this layer. It's very windy! Eagles and bats live here.

The next layer is the canopy. The big branches and leaves of the tall trees are here. There are many types of animal in this layer, because there's light and lots of food. Monkeys and toucans live in the canopy.

The next layer is the understory. The tops of the small trees are in this layer. It's dark and hot. Jaguars and tree frogs live here.

The bottom layer is the forest floor. The roots of the trees are in this layer. Many insects live on the forest floor. Some big animals like anteaters live here, too. They eat the insects.



The kapok tree is one of the tallest rainforest trees. It can grow up to 70 meters tall.

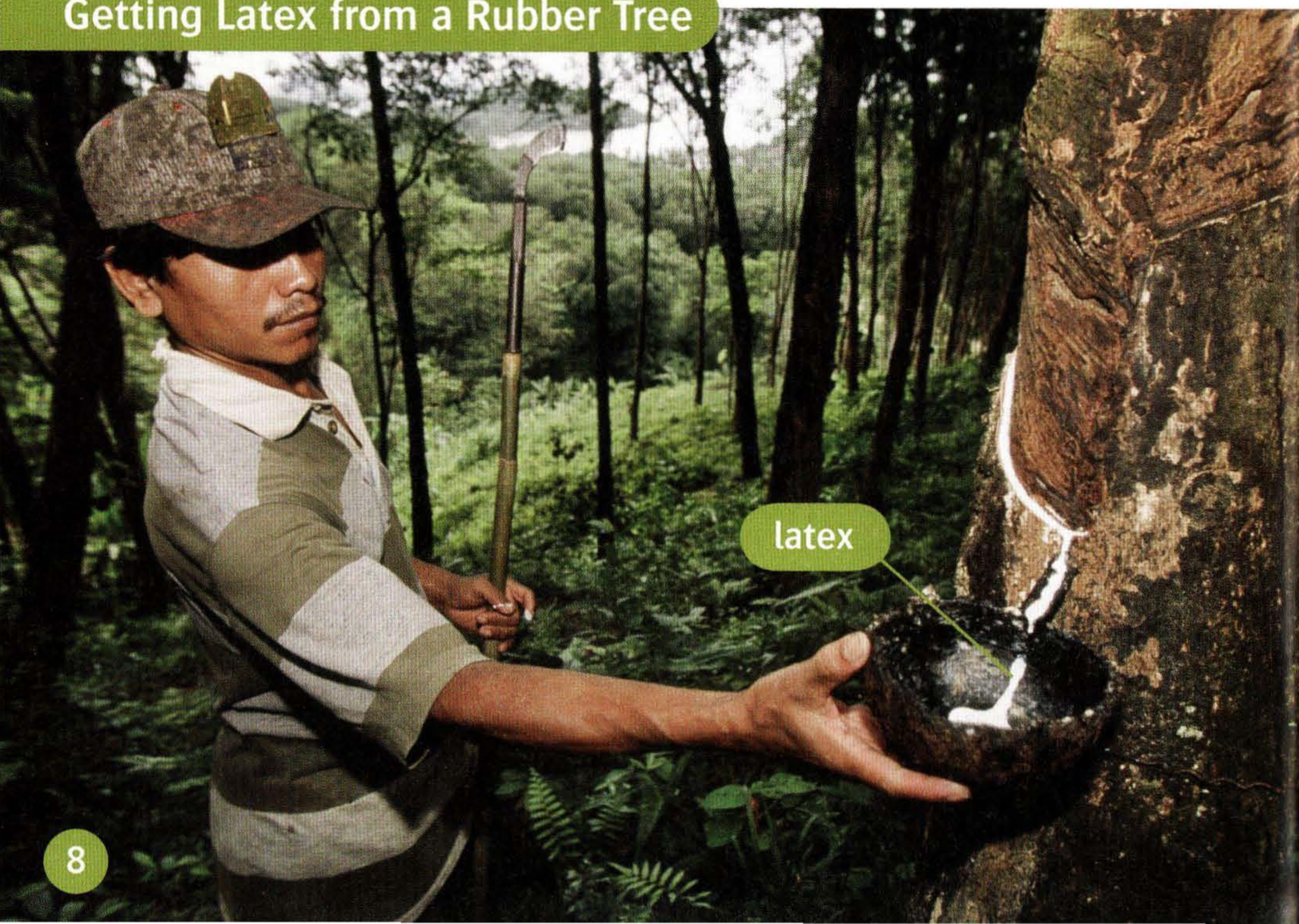
A Kapok Tree



Animals and people get lots of food from rainforest plants. Bananas, pineapples, and nuts all grow in the rainforest.

We can make things from rainforest plants, too. People make clothes and bags from pineapple leaves. We also use some plants to make medicines. We can use some rainforest trees, like the balsa tree, for wood. We can use the rubber tree for latex to make rubber.

Getting Latex from a Rubber Tree



latex



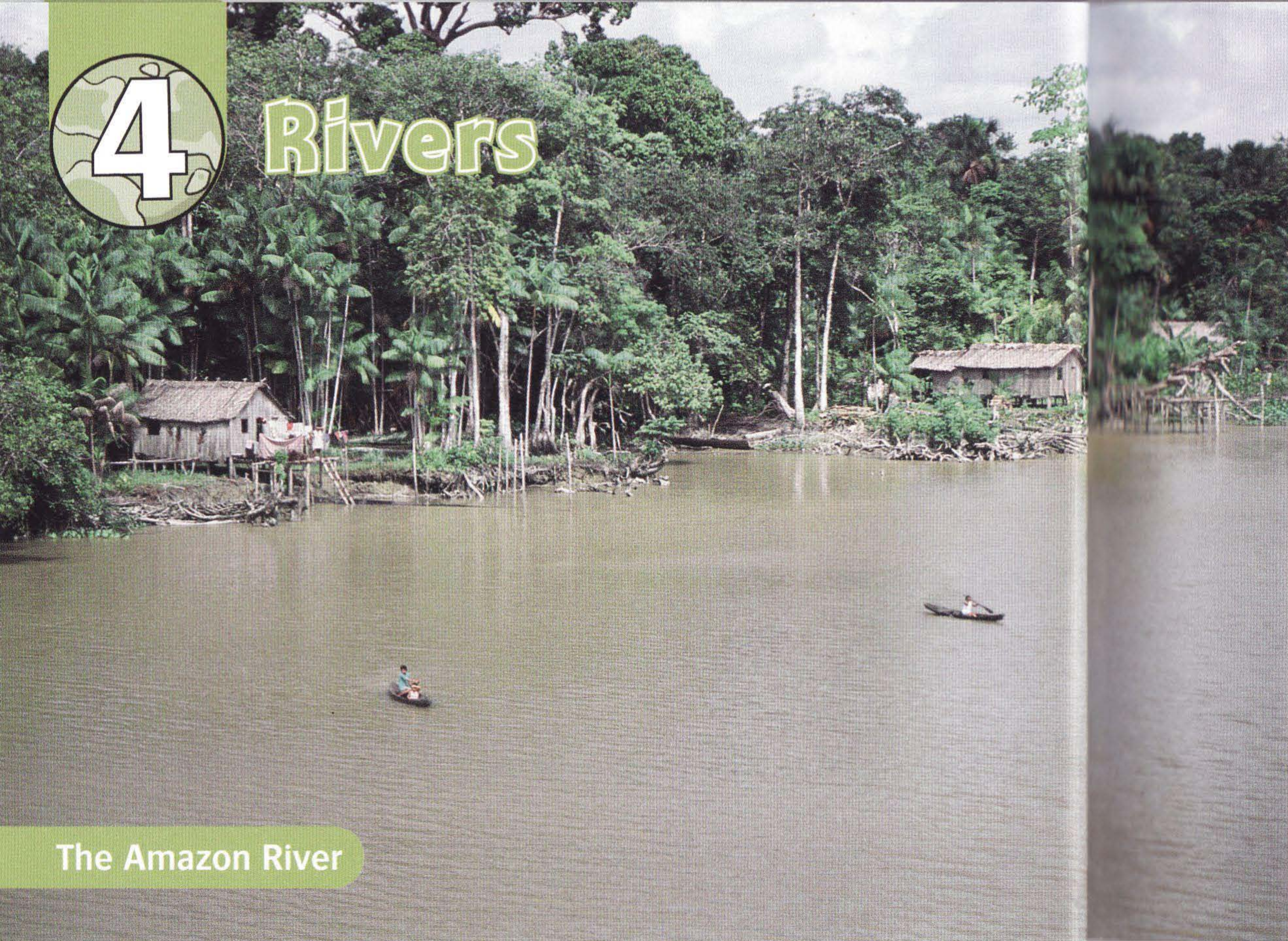
Orang-Utans in a Nest

Many rainforest plants are homes for animals, like monkeys, birds, and insects. Some frogs sleep between the leaves of big plants. Some birds and other small animals live in tree holes. They make nests for their babies in the holes. Orang-utans sleep in nests in trees. They make the nests from leaves and branches.



Orang-utans use big leaves as umbrellas when it rains!

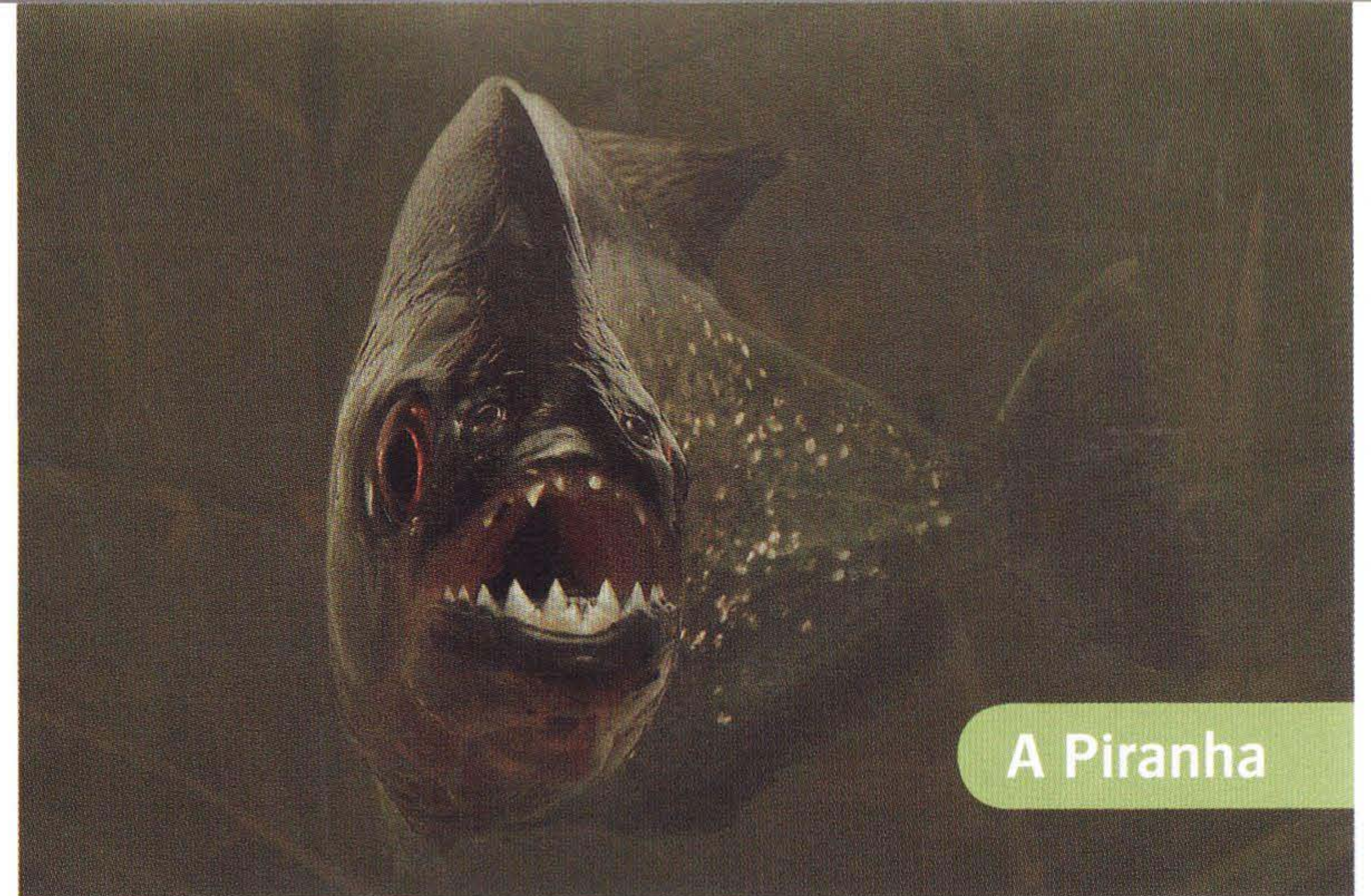




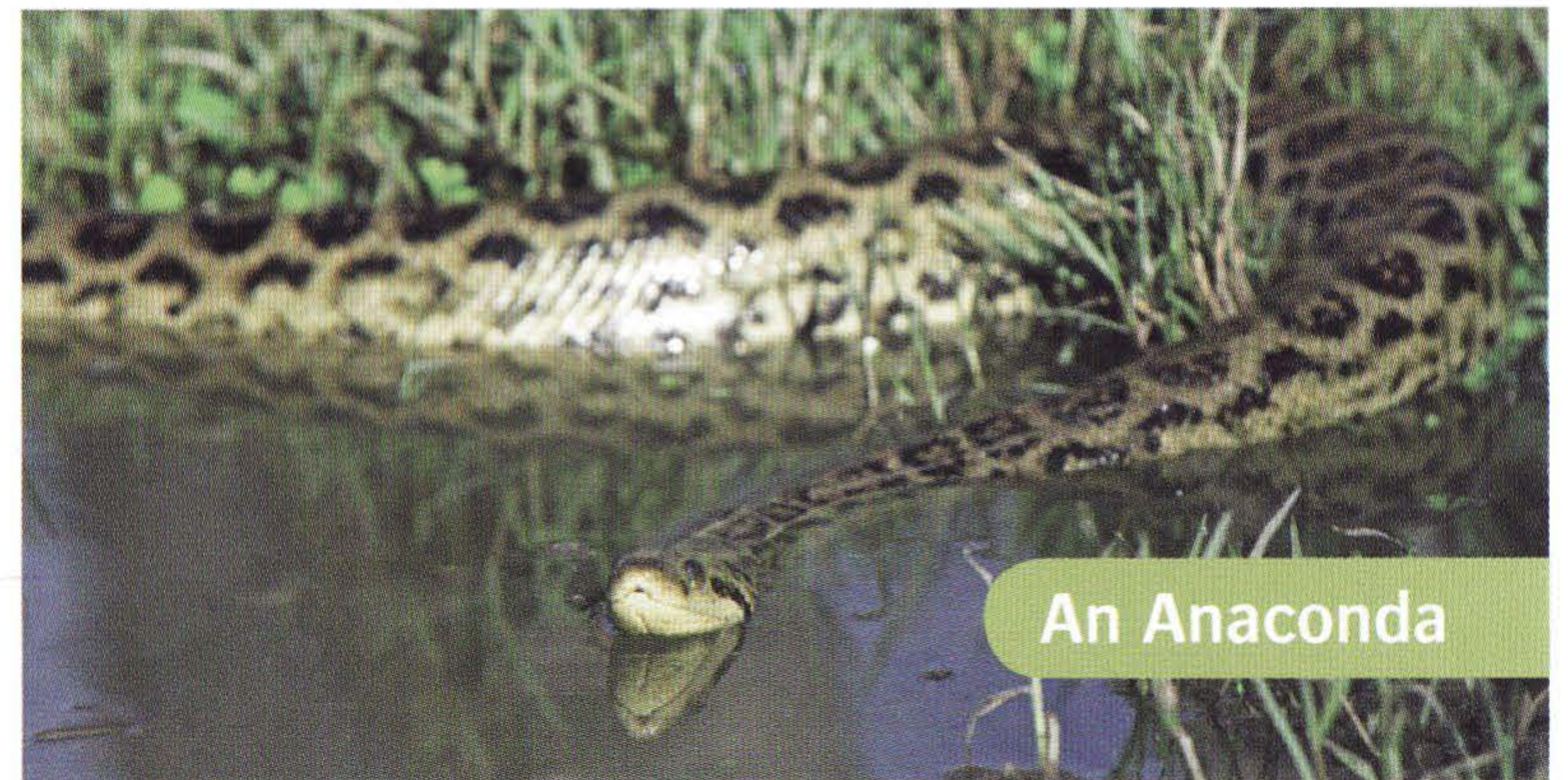
The Amazon River

Tropical rainforests have some of the biggest rivers on Earth, like the Mekong River in Asia and the Congo River in Africa. The biggest rainforest river is the Amazon River in South America. The Amazon is about 6,400 kilometers long.

Many smaller rivers go into big rainforest rivers. More than 1,000 smaller rivers go into the Amazon.



A Piranha



An Anaconda

Many animals live in rainforest rivers. The Amazon has more than 3,000 types of fish. One example is the piranha. It has big teeth. Anacondas also live here. The anaconda is one of the biggest snakes in the world.

People need rainforest rivers, too. Rivers give people fish to eat, and water. Rivers are also important for travel. Many people travel by boat because there aren't many roads.

Mammals

A mammal is an animal that breathes air and drinks milk from its mother. Lots of mammals live in rainforests. Chimpanzees are mammals, and they live in African rainforests. They eat leaves, fruit, insects, and other small animals.

Sloths live in the rainforests in Central America and South America. They are the slowest mammals in the world. They eat leaves and fruit, and they sleep for about 18 hours every day!

A Sloth



Sloths are so slow that algae grow on their fur!

Tigers live in rainforests in Asia. They are the biggest cats in the world. They hunt and eat other big mammals, fish, and birds. They like water and they can swim well.

Platypuses live in rainforests in Australia. They hunt underwater and they eat insects, shellfish, and worms. Male platypuses have poisonous stingers on their feet.

A Platypus



stinger



Most of the minibeasts in rainforests are insects. The biggest butterfly in the world lives in the rainforest in Papua New Guinea near Australia. It's the female Queen Alexandra's Birdwing. Its wings can be 31 centimeters across.

Mantises live in rainforests all around the world. They use camouflage to hide from other animals. They can look like leaves, sticks, or flowers!

A Flower Mantis



A Rhinoceros Beetle

Many types of beetle live in the rainforest. Rhinoceros beetles have a horn on their head like rhinos. They are big and strong.

Spiders live in rainforests, too. Tarantulas live in South American rainforests. They are probably the biggest spiders in the world. Their legs can be 30 centimeters long.



Tarantulas have eight eyes, but they can't see very well.

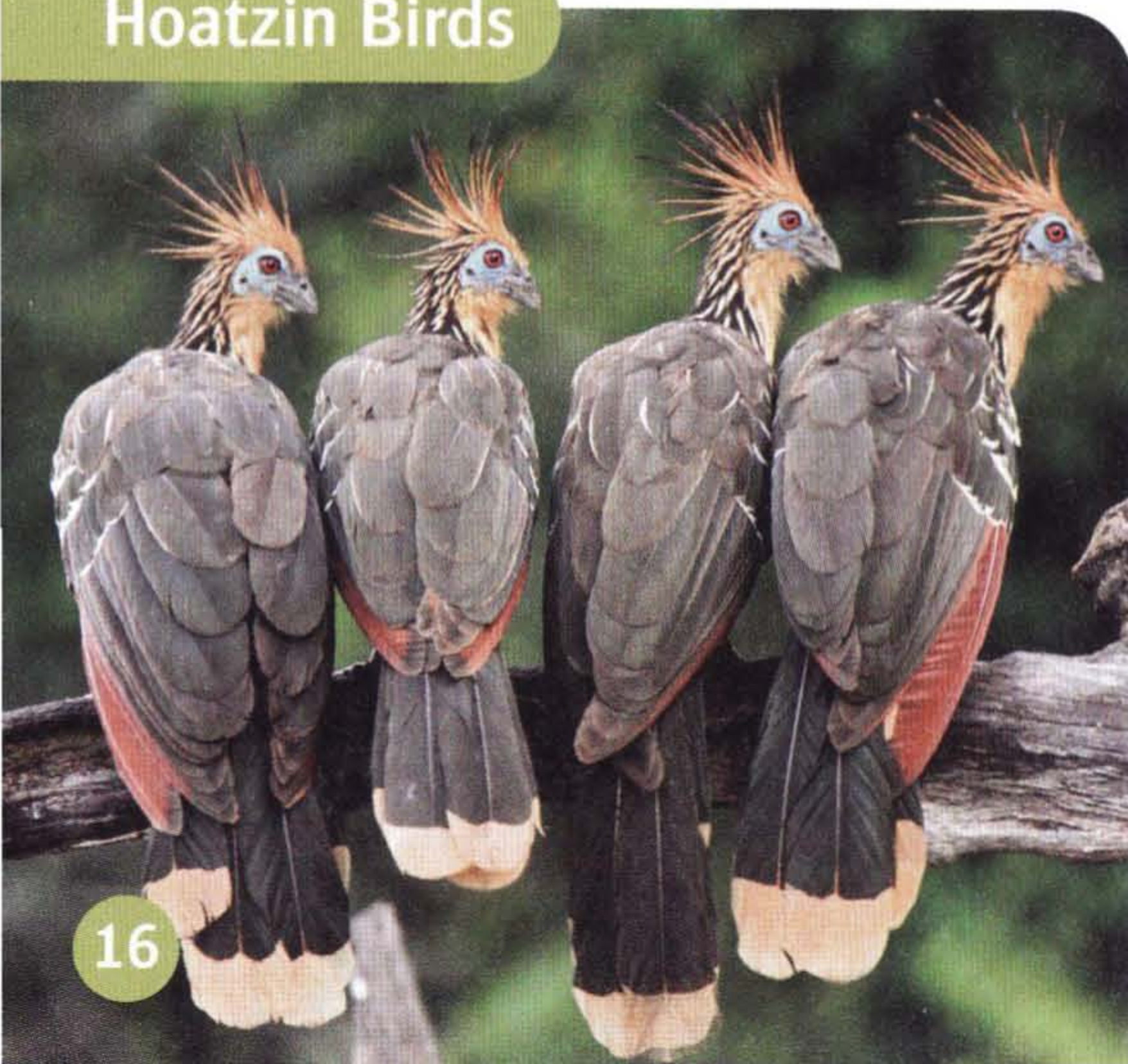




An Australian King Parrot

Some rainforest birds are very colorful. The Australian king parrot has a red head, green wings, and a blue tail. It has a yellow circle around each eye.

Hoatzin Birds



Hoatzin birds are black, brown, gray, orange, red and blue. They live in the Amazon rainforest. Their babies have two claws on each wing. They use these claws to climb before they can fly.

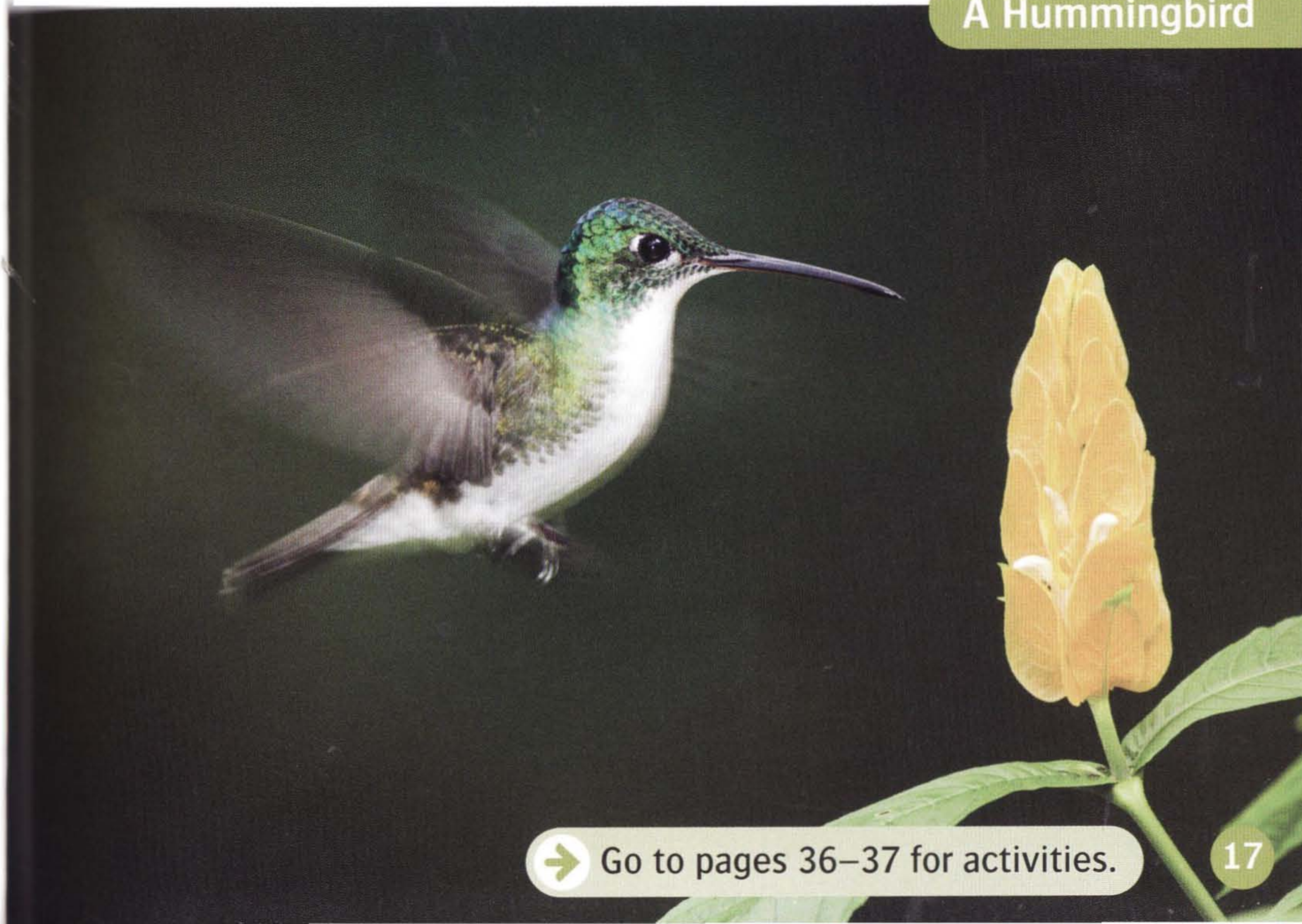
Some rainforest birds are big. The female northern cassowary from Papua New Guinea can be up to 2 meters tall. It can weigh 58 kilograms. It has very big feet and it can't fly.

Other rainforest birds are very small. The smallest birds are hummingbirds. They drink nectar from flowers. They can flap their wings very fast – from 15 to 80 times every second.



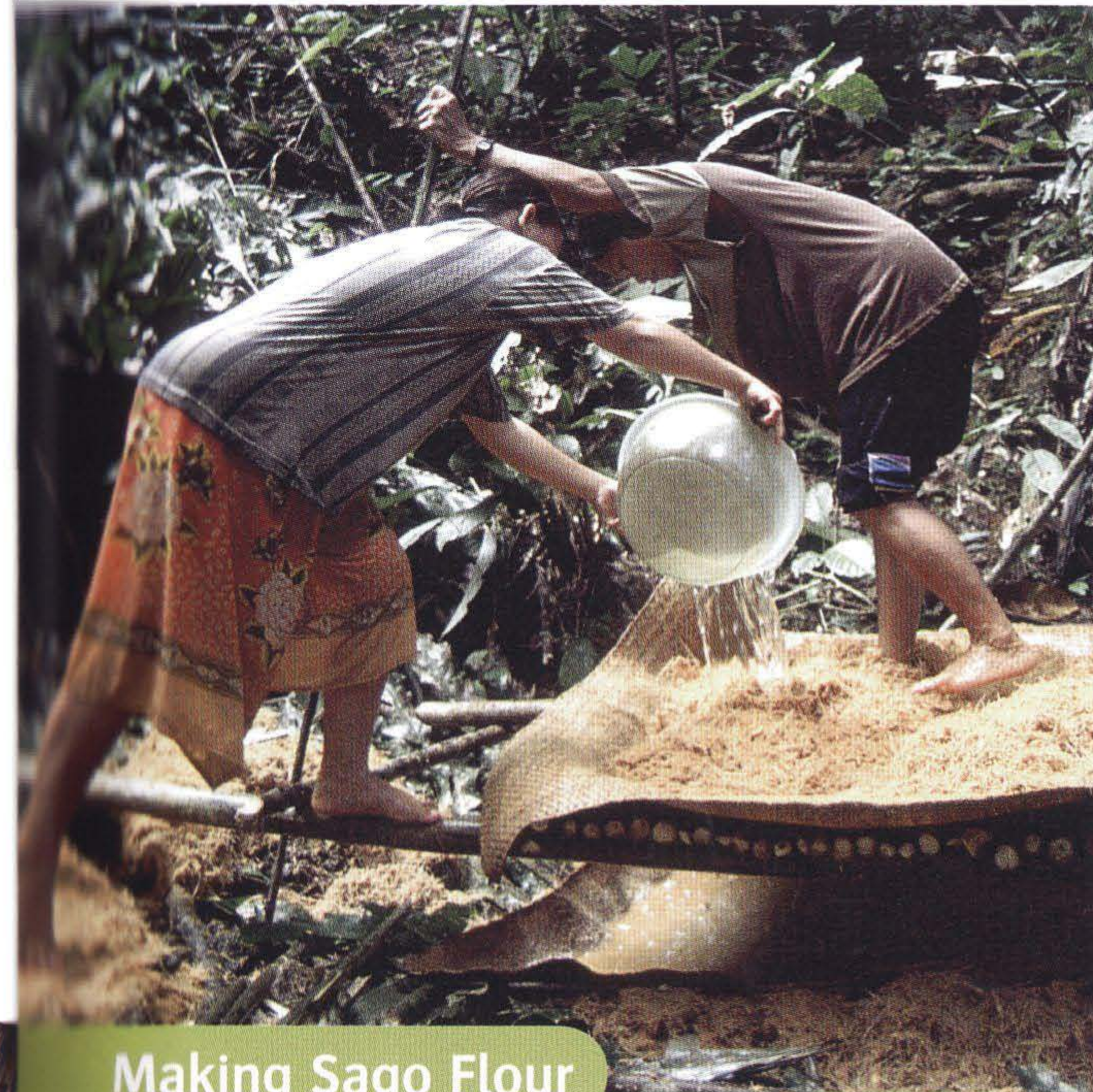
A Northern Cassowary

A Hummingbird

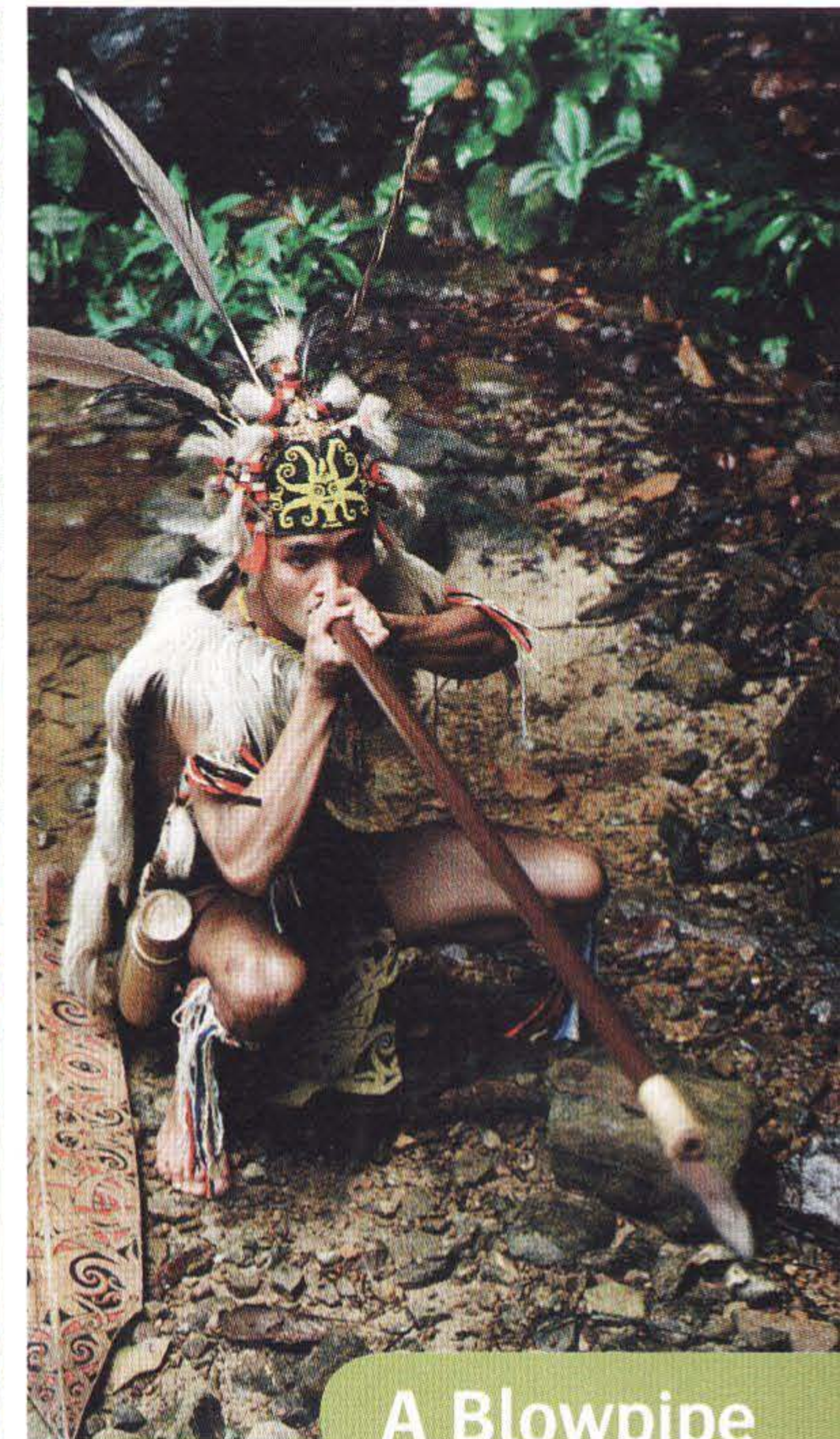


Many different groups of people live in tropical rainforests. The Penan people live in Sarawak. Sarawak is in Borneo in Asia. The Penan people travel through the rainforest in families of up to 30 people. Each family has one hut to live in and one smaller hut to sleep in. When they travel, they build new huts.

Building a Hut



Making Sago Flour



A Blowpipe

The Penan people make flour from sago palm trees. They hunt and eat deer, smaller mammals, and birds. Sometimes they use blowpipes to hunt.

The rainforest is the home of the Penan people, but some other people cut down the trees. Then the rainforest is different. Sometimes the Penan people can't find the plants that they use for medicines. Sometimes they can't find clean water or food.

9

Rainforest Problems

Tropical rainforests are getting smaller. People cut down the trees to get wood. Then they sell the wood. Lots of furniture, doors, and floors are made from the wood.

Some farmers also cut down rainforest trees. They do this to keep cows on the land, or to grow coffee or sugar. Then they can sell the cows, coffee, and sugar.

Cows on Rainforest Land



Deforestation



Trees are good for the soil. When there are no trees, the soil is not very good. Then new trees grow more slowly, and some trees die. With no trees, rainforest people and animals have no homes. They can't find food, and they can't live in the rainforest.



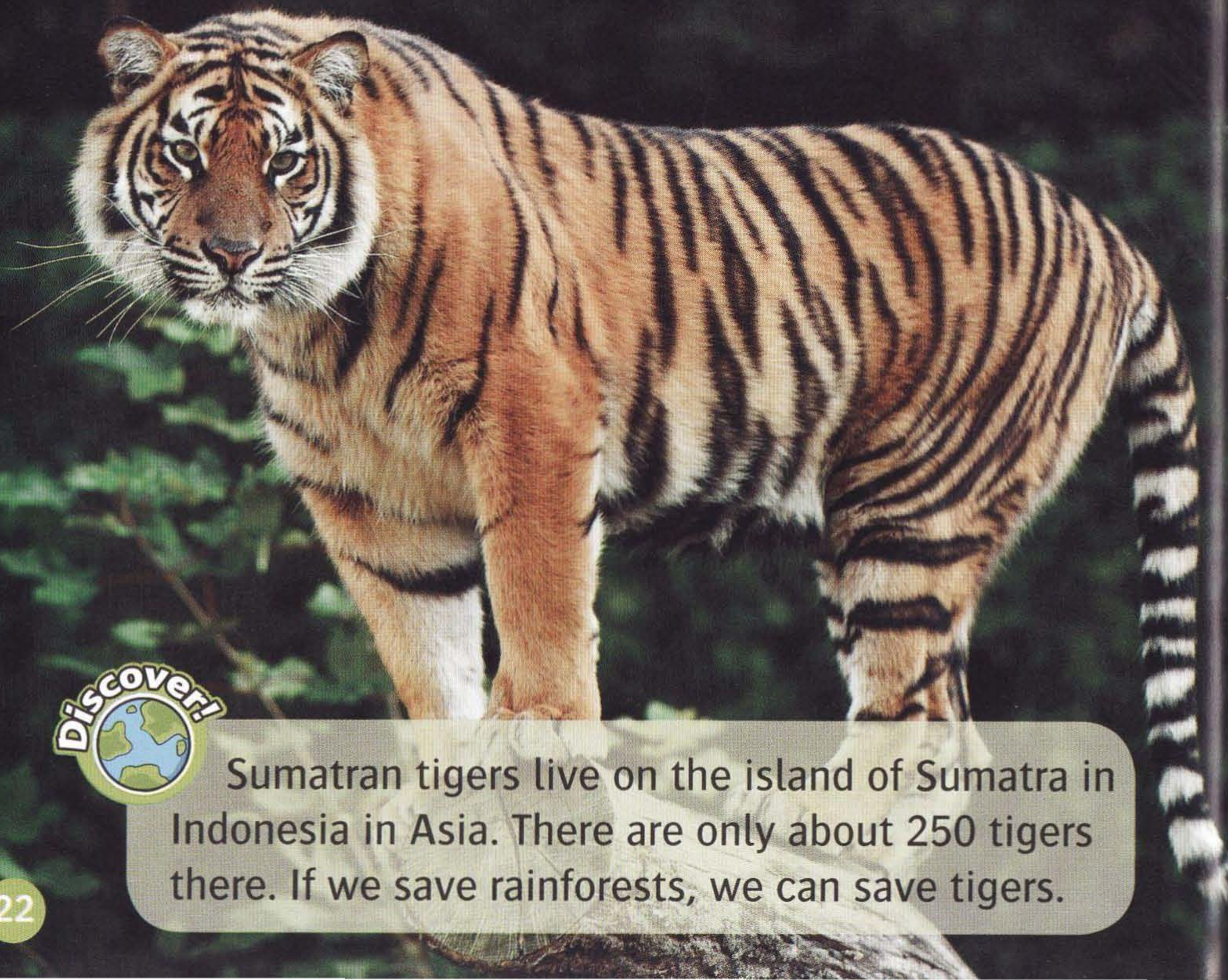
People cut down about 20,000 square kilometers of rainforest every year. This is called deforestation.



Save the Rainforests!

How can we save the tropical rainforests? We can buy coffee, sugar, and bananas from farmers who do not cut down rainforest trees. We can buy furniture that is not made from rainforest wood. We can buy recycled paper. This saves trees because paper is also made from wood.

A Sumatran Tiger



Sumatran tigers live on the island of Sumatra in Indonesia in Asia. There are only about 250 tigers there. If we save rainforests, we can save tigers.

We can teach other people about rainforests and the people that live there. We can teach them about the amazing rainforest plants and rivers. We can teach them about the special mammals, birds, and minibeasts that live there, too.

Rainforests are beautiful and important places. Save the rainforests!

A Tree Frog



1 Tropical Rainforests

← Read pages 4–5.

1 Write the numbers.



- | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| ☐ Australasia | ☐ Africa |
| ☐ South America | ☐ Asia |
| ☐ North America | ☐ Europe |
| ☐ Central America | ☐ Equator |
| ☐ The Tropics | ☐ India |
| ☐ Amazon rainforest | ☐ Australia |
| ☐ Congo rainforest | ☐ Madagascar |

2 Write ★ on your country. Circle the rainforest nearest to where you live.

3 Write the numbers.

50 400 6 750 1,500 150

- Tropical rainforests cover only about 6 % of Earth.
- About _____ % of all the types of animal and plant live there.
- About 10 square kilometers of rainforest can have _____ types of tree, _____ types of other plant, _____ types of bird, and _____ types of butterfly.

4 Answer the questions.

- Where are all the tropical rainforests?
All the tropical rainforests are near the equator.
- Where are most of the rainforests?

- Which is the biggest rainforest?

- Which is the second biggest rainforest?

- Where are the smaller rainforests?

2 Rainforest Layers

← Read pages 6–7.

1 Write the words.

forest floor canopy
emergent layer understory



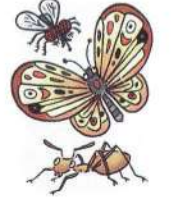
- 1 emergent layer
- 2 _____
- 3 _____
- 4 _____

2 Write the correct rainforest layer.

- 1 It's dark and hot in the understory.
- 2 It's very windy in the _____.
- 3 There's light and lots of food in the _____.
- 4 The bottom layer is the _____.
- 5 The roots of the trees are on the _____.
- 6 The tops of the tallest trees are in the _____.
- 7 The tops of the small trees are in the _____.
- 8 The big branches of the tall trees are in the _____.

3 Complete the chart.

monkeys eagles anteaters bats
tree frogs jaguars insects toucans

Emergent Layer	Canopy	Understory	Forest Floor
 eagles			
			
_____	_____	_____	_____

4 Look at the chart. Write sentences.

- 1 Eagles and _____ live in the emergent layer.
- 2 _____
- 3 _____
- 4 _____

3 Plants

← Read pages 8–9.

1 Write the words.

tanlp



1 plant

lave^es



2 _____

chen^srab



3 _____

tens



4 _____

ree^t leho



5 _____

2 Write true or false.

- 1 Plants are homes for rainforest animals. true
- 2 Some small animals live in tree holes. _____
- 3 Some birds make nests in tree holes. _____
- 4 Orang-utans sleep in tree holes. _____
- 5 Orang-utans make nests from bananas. _____
- 6 Orang-utans sleep on the forest floor. _____

3 What can we get or make from rainforest plants?

- 1 banana tree → b a n a n a s
- 2 balsa tree → w _____
- 3 rubber tree → l _____
- 4 nut tree → n _____
- 5 pineapple leaves → c _____ and b _____

4 Complete the sentences.

grow get can use sleep gives are make

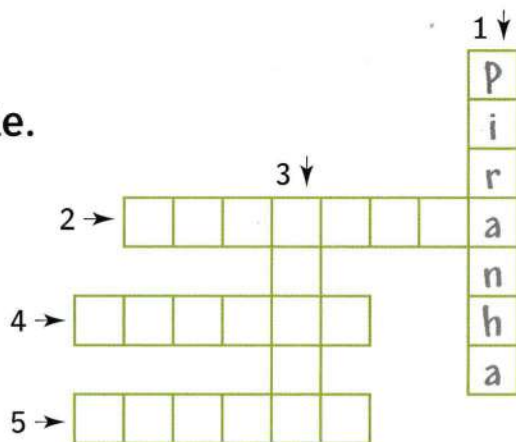
- 1 Many plants are homes for rainforest animals.
- 2 Bananas, pineapples, and nuts _____ in the rainforest.
- 3 We _____ make things from rainforest plants.
- 4 We _____ some plants to make medicines.
- 5 The balsa tree _____ us wood.
- 6 We can _____ rubber with latex.
- 7 Animals and people _____ food from rainforest plants.
- 8 Some frogs _____ between the leaves of plants.

4 Rivers

← Read pages 10–11.

1 Complete the puzzle.

- 1 a fish with big teeth
- 2 one of the biggest snakes in the world
- 3 a big river in Africa
- 4 a big river in Asia
- 5 the biggest rainforest river



2 Write ✓ or X.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 The Mekong River is
☒ bigger than the Amazon.
☒ in Asia. | 2 The Amazon isn't
☐ a small river.
☐ the biggest rainforest river. |
| 3 The Amazon has more than 3,000
☐ types of fish.
☐ smaller rivers. | 4 An anaconda is
☐ a snake.
☐ a fish. |
| 5 Rivers give people
☐ food and light.
☐ food and water. | 6 Many rainforest people travel by
☐ train.
☐ boat. |

3 Write the words in the correct order.

- 1 live / rivers. / animals / Many / rainforest / in
Many animals live in rainforest rivers.
- 2 water. / give / Rivers / people

- 3 Rivers / people / eat. / give / to / fish

- 4 important / for / travel. / Rivers / are

- 5 travel / on / boat / People / rivers. / by

- 6 Amazon. / roads / aren't / There / many / the / in

4 Write about the River Amazon.

The River Amazon is in _____
 It's the _____
 It's about _____
 It has _____
 _____ live in the River Amazon.
 People need the river because _____

5

Mammals

← Read pages 12–13.

1 Find and write the words.



1 fish



2 _____



3 _____



4 _____



5 _____

c	h	i	m	p	a	n	z	e	e
r	i	n	s	e	c	t	s	w	f
i	r	m	e	t	r	u	d	o	i
m	s	l	a	t	i	g	e	r	s
p	l	a	t	y	p	u	s	m	h
o	o	s	e	y	r	m	t	r	e
t	t	c	a	n	e	o	e	i	f
s	h	e	l	l	f	i	s	h	e



6 _____



7 _____



8 _____

2 Circle the correct words.

- The slowest mammals are platypuses / sloths.
- The biggest cats in the world are tigers / jaguars.
- Male platypuses / tigers have poisonous stingers.
- Chimpanzees / Tigers live in African rainforests and eat leaves, fruit, and insects.

3 Complete the chart.

Mammals	Rainforest	Food
Chimpanzees	<u>African</u> <u>rainforest</u>	_____
Sloths	_____	_____
Tigers	_____	<u>other mammals,</u> <u>fish, birds</u>
Platypuses	_____	_____

4 Draw and write about a rainforest mammal.



This is a _____
 It lives _____
 It eats _____
 It _____

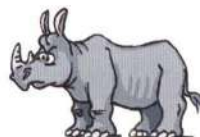
6 Minibeasts

← Read pages 14–15.

1 Use the code to write the animals. Then write the numbers.

a	b	d	e	f	h	i	l	m	n	o	p	r	s	t	u	y
↓	⊙	⊗	▲	★	↗	■	◆	⊕	⊖	⊗	●	○	⊙	↑	□	≡

1 ⊙ □ ↑ ↑ ▲ ○ ★ ◆ ≡
b u t t e r f l y



2 ⊕ ↓ ⊖ ↑ ■ ⊙
□ □ □ □ □ □



3 ⊙ ▲ ▲ ↑ ◆ ▲
□ □ □ □ □ □



4 ⊙ ● ■ ⊗ ▲ ○
□ □ □ □ □ □



5 ○ ↗ ■ ⊖ ⊗
□ □ □ □ □



2 Match.

The female Queen Alexandra's Birdwing

Rhinoceros beetles

Tarantulas

Mantises

are probably the biggest spiders.

can look like flowers.

is the biggest butterfly.

have horns like rhinos.

3 Correct the sentences.

1 The Queen Alexandra's Birdwing lives in India.

The Queen Alexandra's Birdwing lives in Papua New Guinea.

2 Most of the minibeasts in rainforests are spiders.

3 Mantises can't use camouflage.

4 Rhinoceros beetles have a stinger on their head.

5 Tarantulas live in African rainforests.

6 Tarantulas have six eyes.

7 Birds

← Read pages 16–17.

1 Write the words.

tail wing feet eye head

- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____
- 4 _____
- 5 _____



2 Circle the correct words.

- 1 The Australian king parrot is colorful / black and white.
- 2 Hoatzin babies / adults climb before they can fly.
- 3 Hoatzin babies have claws on their head / wings.
- 4 The female northern cassowary can weigh 58 / 85 kilograms.
- 5 The northern cassowary can / can't fly.
- 6 Hummingbirds flap their wings very fast / slowly.

3 Complete the chart.

It has very big feet It flaps its wings very fast.
~~It has a yellow circle around each eye.~~
 It can be 2 meters tall. Its babies can climb.
 It's very small. It lives in the Amazon.
 It's red, blue, green, and yellow.

Australian King Parrot	<u>It has a yellow circle around each eye.</u>
Hoatzin	_____
Female Northern Cassowary	_____
Hummingbird	_____

4 Write about two rainforest birds.

Name: _____

Name: _____

8 People

← Read pages 18–19.

1 Complete the puzzle. Write the secret word.



1



2



3



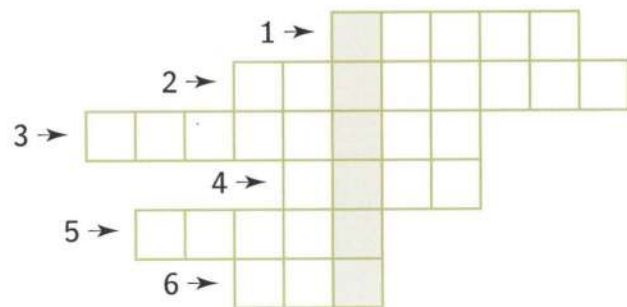
4



5



6



The secret word is:

2 Complete the sentences with words from activity 1.

- 1 The Penan people hunt _____ and _____.
- 2 They have a _____ to sleep in.
- 3 They make and eat sago _____.
- 4 They make flour from the sago _____.
- 5 They sometimes use a _____ to hunt.

3 Answer the questions.

- 1 Where do the Penan people live?

- 2 How many huts does each family have?

- 3 What do they eat?

- 4 Why can't the Penan people find the trees that they need?

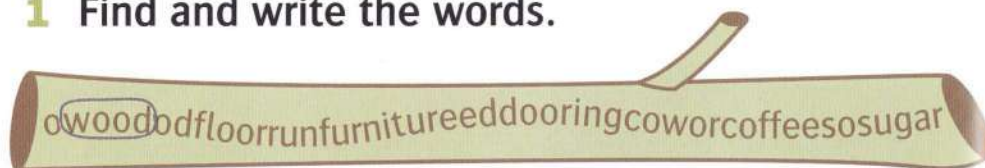
4 Draw and write about the Penan people.

The Penan people are rainforest people from

9 Rainforest Problems

← Read pages 20–21.

1 Find and write the words.



1 wood 2 _____ 3 _____ 4 _____



5 _____ 6 _____ 7 _____

2 Number the sentences in order.

- ☐ They sell the wood.
- ☐ Other people make furniture, doors, and floors.
- ☐ People cut down rainforest trees.
- ☐ They get wood from the trees.

3 Match.

- 1 Some farmers cut down
- 2 They keep
- 3 Some farmers grow
- 4 Then they sell

cows on the land.
rainforest trees.
the cows, coffee,
and sugar.
coffee or sugar.

4 Complete the diagram.

slowly soil homes die live food



10 Save the Rainforests!

← Read pages 22–23.

1 Write the words in order. Then write ✓ or X.

1 trees. / down / Cut / rainforest

Cut down rainforest trees.

☒

2 wood. / furniture / from / rainforest / Buy / made

☐

3 rainforests. / people / Teach / about

☐

4 paper. / recycled / Buy

☐

5 down / farmers / who / coffee / from / Buy / trees. / cut / rainforest

☐

2 Complete the words.

We can teach people about rainforest ...

1 p _ _ _ _ _

4 m _ _ _ _ _

2 p _ _ _ _ _

5 b _ _ _ _

3 r _ _ _ _ _

6 m _ _ _ _ _

3 Complete the sentences.

Indonesia tigers rainforests Sumatra

1 Sumatran tigers live on the island of _____.

2 Sumatra is in _____.

3 There are only about 250 Sumatran _____ on Sumatra.

4 If we save _____, we can save tigers.

4 Which tropical rainforest is it?

1 It's the biggest tropical rainforest. _____

2 It's the second biggest tropical rainforest. _____

3 It has the biggest rainforest river. _____

4 The Mekong River is here. _____

5 Platypuses live here. _____

6 Tigers live here. _____

7 Chimpanzees live here. _____

8 Tarantulas live here. _____

9 Hoatzin birds live here. _____

10 The Penan people live here. _____

Project 1

A Tropical Rainforest

- 1 Draw a map of the tropical rainforest nearest where you live.

- 2 Draw the rainforest rivers on your map. Write the names of the rivers.
- 3 Draw and write about a mammal, a bird, and a minibeast from this rainforest.

Project 2

Save the Rainforests!

- 1 How can we save the rainforests? Write notes.

When people cut down trees ...



New trees _____

Some trees _____

How can we save the rainforests?

We can teach _____

We can save _____

We can buy _____

We can _____

- 2 Make a poster about how to save the rainforests.
- 3 Display your poster.

Picture Dictionary



breathe



buy



chimpanzee



claws



climb



island



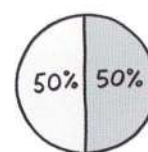
land



male



medicines



percent (%)



clothes



coffee



dark



deer



die



pineapple



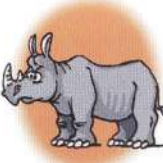
plants



poisonous



recycle



rhino



female



food



forest



fruit



furniture



river



road



rubber



shellfish



soil



grow



hide



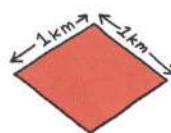
hole



hunt



insects



square
kilometer



stick



sugar



wood



worm



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