

Discover  
**AMAZONIA**  
Scotland's Indoor Tropical Rainforest

**ONLINE LESSONS**



**Final Lesson**



**Rainforest Glossary**

Here are a selection of useful words and meanings, relating to the rainforest:

**BIODIVERSITY**

A term that describes species richness, ecosystem complexity and genetic variation.

**CANOPY**

The third layer up in the rainforest, the canopy is a continuous layer of leaves and branches which form a roof over the forest.

**CARNIVORE**

A meat eater.

**CONSERVATION**

The protection and management of fauna and flora.

**DECOMPOSE**

To rot or decay.

**DEFORESTATION**

The felling of trees in the forests.

**DETRITIVORE**

Organism that feed on decaying matter.

**ECOSYSTEM**

A community of organisms interacting with one another and with the environment in which they live.

**EMERGENT  
LAYER**

The highest level in the rainforest, where certain trees emerge much higher than others.



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Here are a selection of useful words and meanings, relating to the rainforest:

**ENDANGERED**

When a population of organisms is at risk of becoming extinct because it is either few in numbers, or threatened by changing environmental or predation parameters.

**ENVIRONMENT**

Includes all the things and forces that surround the individual at any given time.

**FAUNA**

Animal life.

**FLORA**

Plant life.

**FOREST FLOOR**

The lowest level in the rainforest where it is very dark as the tall trees block out much of the sunlight and there is not much plant growth because of the little light.

**HABITAT**

The native environment where a plant or animal naturally lives or grows.

**HERBIVORE**

A plant eater.

**HUMIDITY**

The ratio of the weight of water vapour in a given quantity of air, to the total weight of water vapour that quantity of air is capable of holding at the temperature in question, expressed as a percentage.



ENDANGERED



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#### Rainforest Glossary

Here are a selection of useful words and meanings, relating to the rainforest:

**INSECT**

An animal with 6 legs.

**INSECTIVOROUS**

An animal that feeds on insects.

**INVERTEBRATE**

An animal without a backbone e.g. worm, snail, insect.

**LEAF LITTER**

The layer of leaves that covers the forest floor.

**LIFE CYCLE**

The course of life of a plant or animal which usually includes periods of youth, maturity and old age.

**OMNIVORE**

An animal and plant eater.

**ORGANISM**

Any plant or animal.

**PREDATOR**

An organism that actively catches food and lives by eating others.

**RAINFOREST**

Very wet, dense, warm forests in tropical regions of the world.





ENDANGERED



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### Rainforest Glossary

Here are a selection of useful words and meanings, relating to the rainforest:

#### RARE

Species that are not at present endangered or vulnerable but are at risk because of a small population size.

#### SPECIES

A group of plants or animals with genetic attributes and characteristics in common, which do not generally interbreed with other groups and/or produce fertile offspring.

#### THREATENED

Species which due to natural or other processes, may be in danger of extinction. This includes species of endangered, vulnerable and poorly known status.

#### UNDERSTORY

Also known as the shrub layer, this is the second layer up in the rainforest under the canopy and consists of many shrubs, tree seedlings, grasses, ferns and mosses.

#### VERTEBRATE

An animal with a backbone (birds, fish, reptiles, amphibians and mammals).

#### VULNERABLE

Species likely to become endangered in the near future unless threatening factors are removed.



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**Rainforest Wordsearch**

Find the rainforest words hidden in the word search puzzle below.  
They may be hiding horizontally, vertically or diagonally.

B	S	H	C	A	N	O	P	Y	F	C
M	I	T	O	M	L	C	T	R	A	S
S	E	R	N	T	U	E	O	T	E	A
D	Z	T	D	A	W	G	E	E	F	M
R	U	B	S	S	S	R	R	U	U	A
A	L	Y	V	Y	P	T	L	A	N	Z
Z	H	Z	N	I	S	D	M	O	G	O
I	P	I	L	S	E	O	I	O	U	N
L	A	L	T	U	Q	V	C	M	S	R
R	A	A	S	E	N	I	V	E	U	S
R	B	B	E	E	T	L	E	S	Q	H

AMAZON

CATERPILLAR

LIZARDS

ANTS

ECOSYSTEM

MOSS

BATS

FROGS

RAIN

BEETLES

FUNGUS

TREES

BIRDS

CANOPY

HOT

VINES

HUMID

WET





**Final Lesson**

**MADAGASCAN  
HISSING COCKROACH**

*Gromphadorhina portentosa*



**DESCRIPTION**

These cockroaches are shiny brown and oval-shaped, with a stripy looking appearance. They have no wings and a single pair of antennae. They grow to be 2-3 inches long. Adult males have bumps on the top front of their bodies, called horns, which they can fight other males with. The females lack these large bumps.

**DIET**

At night, they become more active and scavenge for meals, feeding mainly on fallen and rotting fruits and plants, although they can consume any organic matter.

**DISTRIBUTION**

These cockroaches live on forest floors, within leaf litter and logs and are native to the island of Madagascar.

**LIFE SPAN**

2-3 years.

**STATUS IN THE WILD:** Least concern.

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**ONLINE LESSONS****Final Lesson****LEOPARD  
GEEKO***Eublepharis macularius***DESCRIPTION**

The leopard gecko is a crepuscular (active at twilight), ground-dwelling species of gecko, which lacks the ability to climb, unlike most species of gecko. They are a very similar pattern and colour to a leopard, hence their name.

**DISTRIBUTION**

They are naturally found in rocky grassland and desert areas of Afghanistan, Pakistan, India and Nepal.

**DIET**

These geckos will feast on a variety of small invertebrates, including crickets, spiders and cockroaches. Leopard geckos store up fat in their tails, which can later be used for energy should the gecko not be able to find enough food.

**LIFE SPAN**

10-20 years.

**STATUS IN THE WILD:**

Least concern.





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**ONLINE LESSONS****Final Lesson****MILK SNAKE**

*Lampropeltis triangulum*

**DESCRIPTION**

Milksnakes have a similar appearance to the deadly coral snake and this mimicry scares away potential predators. While both milk snakes and coral snakes have bands of red, black and yellow down their bodies, they are positioned differently. A good way to remember which is which is "Red on yellow, kill a fellow. Red on black, venom lack."

**DIET**

Milksnakes generally prey on small mammals such as mice but will also take birds, reptiles and eggs. They are constrictors so strike their prey and coil around it tightly to kill it before swallowing it whole. The milksnake can also attack and swallow both harmless and venomous snakes and is partly immune to most snake venom!

**DISTRIBUTION**

Milksnakes are the most widespread snake in North America. They are also found in Canada and Mexico, often inhabiting forest edges, open woodlands and farmlands.

**LIFE SPAN**

Approximately 20 years.

**STATUS IN THE WILD:**

Least concern.

