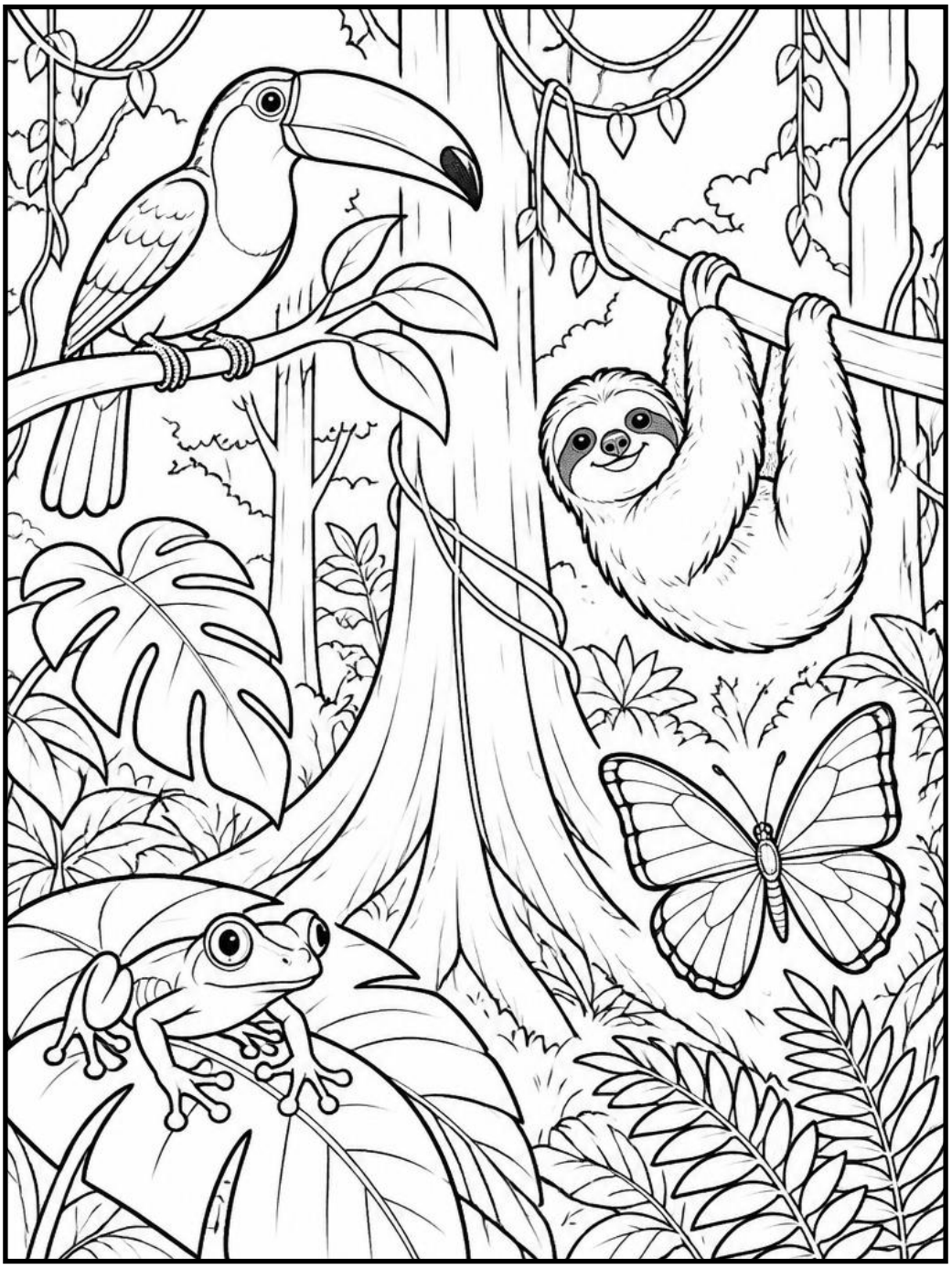
Rainforests & Biodiversity

Learning Pack · Color It. Learn It. Explore It.

Ages 6–10 · Grades 1–4 (approximate) · Life Science / Ecology · 30–75 minutes

Name: _____



Inside: facts · vocabulary · rainforest layers · adaptations · where it lives · quiz · answer key · notes

What you will learn

Learning objectives

- ☐ Explain what a tropical rainforest is.
- ☐ Name the four main rainforest layers.
- ☐ Describe biodiversity.
- ☐ Explain how animals are adapted to their habitats.
- ☐ Describe why rainforests are important.

Five rainforest facts

Fact 1: Warm and wet

Tropical rainforests grow near the equator. They are warm and get lots of rain through most of the year, though the exact weather is different from place to place.

Fact 2: Rainforest layers

Scientists often describe four layers: the emergent layer, the canopy, the understory and the forest floor. This is a simple model — real forests are messier, and the layers blend together.

Fact 3: Biodiversity

Biodiversity is the variety of living things in a place. Rainforests are home to a huge number of different plants, animals, fungi and tiny living things.

Fact 4: Adaptations

Animals have body parts and behaviors that help them survive. A sloth's curved claws help it hang from branches, and a toucan's big bill helps it reach fruit.

Fact 5: Why rainforests matter

Rainforests are home to many living things, help move water into the air to make rain, and store lots of carbon in their trees. Cutting down forests can harm the animals and plants that live there.

Sources (checked October 2026)

Facts 1–3: NASA Earth Observatory, earthobservatory.nasa.gov/biome/biorainforest.php
Facts 3–5: Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, stri.si.edu
Fact 4: Smithsonian's National Zoo, nationalzoo.si.edu/animals/two-toed-sloth

Rainforest words

Rainforest	A thick forest that gets lots of rain. Tropical rainforests are warm all year.
Biodiversity	The variety of different living things in one place.
Ecosystem	Living things and their surroundings, like water, soil and light, working together.
Habitat	The natural home where a plant or animal lives.
Canopy	The thick top cover made by the crowns of most rainforest trees.
Understory	The shady layer under the canopy, with shrubs, palms and young trees.
Adaptation	A body part or behavior that helps a living thing survive where it lives.
Camouflage	Colors or shapes that help an animal blend in with its surroundings.
Conservation	Protecting nature, plants and animals so they can keep living.

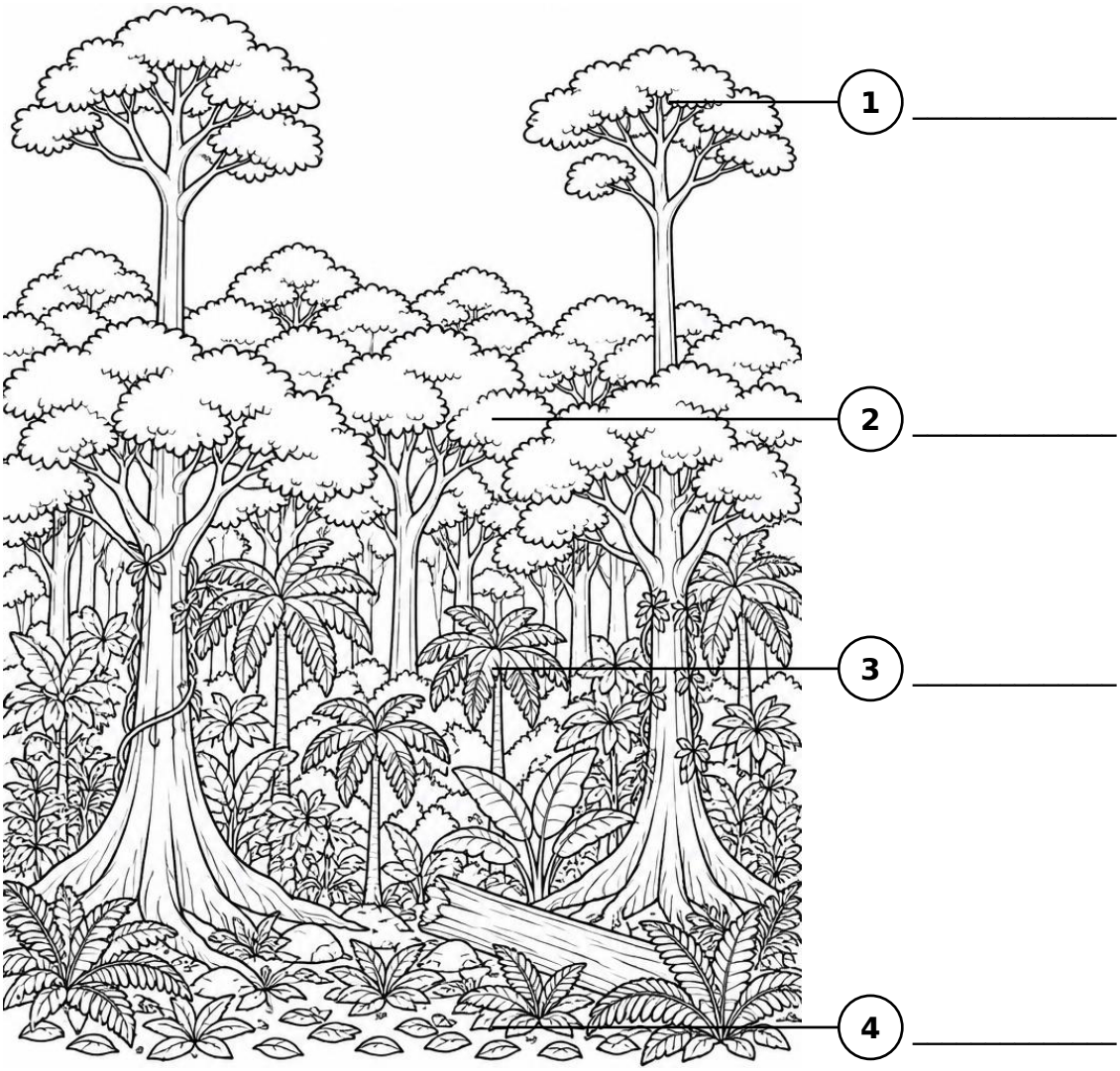
Your turn: write a sentence using two of the words.

Label the rainforest layers

Name: _____ Date: _____

Write each word from the word bank on the line with the matching number.

canopy · forest floor · understory · emergent layer



Simplified tropical rainforest layers — not to scale. Real layers blend into each other.

Rainforest science activities

Name: _____ Date: _____

Activity A: Match the animal to its adaptation

Draw a line from each animal to the feature that helps it survive. (Not every frog or insect has these features.)

Sloth	○	○ sticky toe pads help it climb leaves and branches
Keel-billed toucan	○	○ looks like a leaf, so it blends in with plants
Red-eyed tree frog	○	○ long, curved claws help it hang from branches
Leaf-mimic katydid	○	○ its large bill helps it reach and handle fruit

Activity B: Where might you commonly find it?

Draw a line from each living thing to a layer where it is often found. Many animals move between layers too.

Harpy eagle	○	○ often found on the forest floor — carry leaf pieces to underground nests
Spider monkey	○	○ often found in the canopy — moves through the treetops
Red-eyed tree frog	○	○ often found in the emergent layer — nests and perches in the tallest trees
Leafcutter ants	○	○ often found in the understory — rests on leaves of shrubs and small trees

All animals on this page live in the rainforests of Central and South America.

Rainforest quiz

Name: _____ Date: _____

Fill in the circle next to the best answer.

1. What makes a tropical rainforest special?

- ◯ a) It is cold and dry all year
- ◯ b) It is warm and gets lots of rain through the year
- ◯ c) It has no trees

2. Which layer gets the most sunlight?

- ◯ a) The forest floor
- ◯ b) The understory
- ◯ c) The emergent layer

3. What does biodiversity mean?

- ◯ a) The variety of living things in a place
- ◯ b) The number of rainy days
- ◯ c) One kind of tree

4. How does a sloth's long, curved claws help it?

- ◯ a) They help it swim fast
- ◯ b) They help it hang from branches
- ◯ c) They help it dig tunnels

5. Why is it important to protect rainforests?

- ◯ a) They are home to many living things and help store carbon
- ◯ b) They make the ocean salty
- ◯ c) They stop the wind

Bonus: What might happen to rainforest animals if many trees were cut down?

Answer key

Label the rainforest layers

1. emergent layer 2. canopy 3. understory 4. forest floor

Activity A: adaptations

Sloth → long, curved claws help it hang from branches

Keel-billed toucan → its large bill helps it reach and handle fruit

Red-eyed tree frog → sticky toe pads help it climb leaves and branches

Leaf-mimic katydid → looks like a leaf, so it blends in with plants

Activity B: where might you find it?

Harpy eagle → often found in the emergent layer — nests and perches in the tallest trees

Spider monkey → often found in the canopy — moves through the treetops

Red-eyed tree frog → often found in the understory — rests on leaves of shrubs and small trees

Leafcutter ants → often found on the forest floor — carry leaf pieces to underground nests

Quiz

1. b) It is warm and gets lots of rain through the year
2. c) The emergent layer
3. a) The variety of living things in a place
4. b) They help it hang from branches
5. a) They are home to many living things and help store carbon

Bonus (answers will vary): for example, animals could lose their homes and food, have to move, or become fewer. Some kinds could even disappear from that area.

Teacher and parent notes

Who it is for

Ages 6–10 (about grades 1–4). Younger children can do the coloring, vocabulary and layer pages with help reading.

Time

30–75 minutes, depending on the activities selected.

Suggested order

1) Read the facts. 2) Vocabulary. 3) Label the layers. 4) Adaptation matching. 5) Where might you find it? 6) Quiz. 7) Color a sheet from the free Forest & Tree collection.

Hands-on: build a rainforest model

On a long sheet of paper, draw the four layers from the forest floor up to the emergent trees. Color and cut out paper animals and place them where they are often found. Label each layer.

Safety

Use child-safe scissors and materials, with an adult nearby. Never collect or disturb wild animals, and do not handle unknown insects or plants. The whole activity can be done indoors with paper and crayons.

Discussion questions

Why are rainforests home to so many different living things? How do animals use rainforest trees? Why is biodiversity important? What happens when habitats are damaged?

A note on the science

Tropical rainforests grow in Central and South America, Africa, Asia and Australia, and each has different animals. Every animal in this pack lives in Central and South American rainforests, so they really could share a forest. The four layers are a simple model.