# RAINFORESTS

Mangrove is a type of rainforest that grows on the edges of seas, lagoons and estuaries.

Cloud forest grows on the sides of mountains and can be hidden in clouds; which keep it continually moist.

Lowland Rainforests grow between the mountains and the coast. They are found in the tropics and are barely affected by seasonal changes.

Temperate rainforest grows outside the tropics. Here the weather is a bit more seasonal; this means it gets wetter and colder in winter, and warmer and drier in summer.

Tropical rainforests are found near the equator. Tropical rainforests are always warm and wet, with high rainfall between 250cm and 450cm a year. Tropical rainforests are a collection of many types of trees that provide food and a home for lots of different animals.

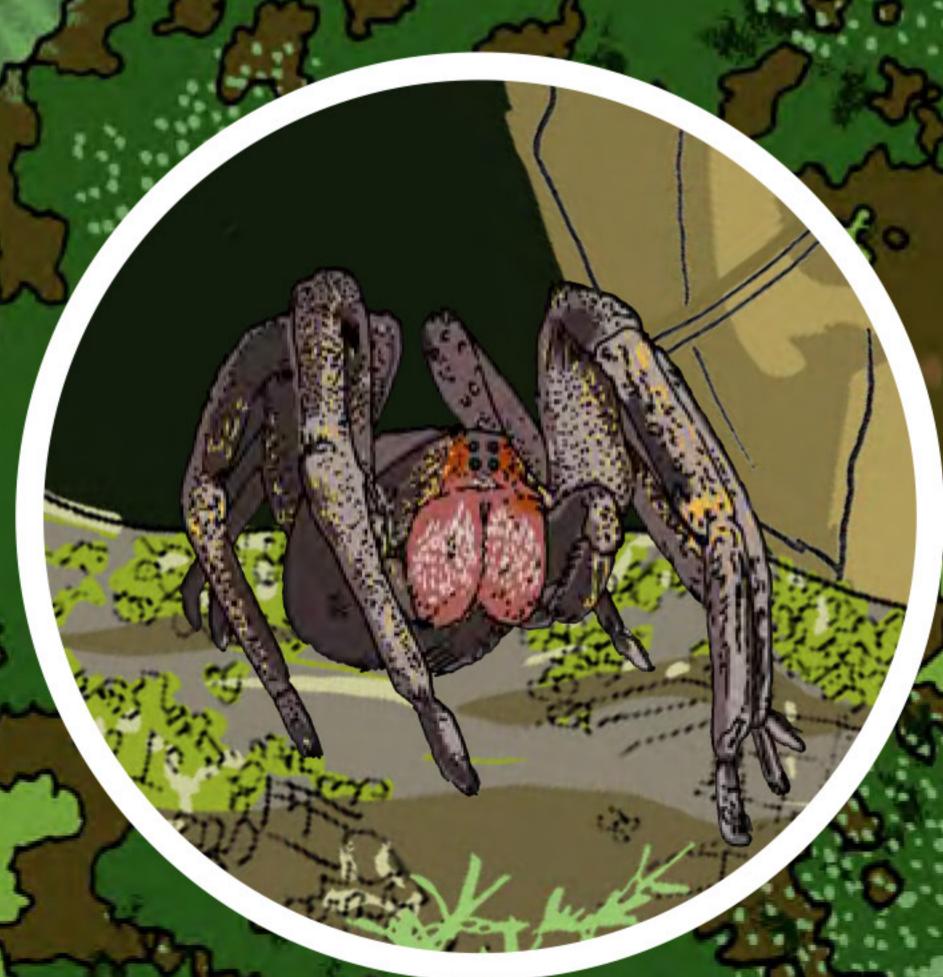
What does all this humid weather invite?

Lots of creepy crawlies, mosquitos, leeches and insects.

Did you know? The Brazilian wandering spider holds a record for being the most venomous spider!

Emergent Layer









Understory Layer



Canopy Layer



Forest Floor



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#### Why are rainforests important?

- Biodiversity.
- Eco-tourism to support the local economy.
- Trees absorb carbon dioxide and produce oxygen.
- Forests provide homes for wildlife (including new species yet to be discovered) and local people.
- Forests provide ecosystem services such as global climate control, maintaining the water cycle, and storing carbon.
- Forests contain plants used for food and medicine.

#### What threats do rainforests and their inhabitants face?

- Deforestation (Plantations, biofuels, palm oil, soybean, cattle ranching, logging, development, dams, mining, agriculture, building homes, roads, power lines).
- Pollution of drinking water.
- Illegal extraction of plants and animals.
- Hunting.
- Biodiversity loss, often due to habitat loss.
- Fires.
- Climate Change.

### KEY STAGE 2

- Encourage research and participation by being journalists, local people or an eco-tourism provider.
- Encourage students to question what impact loss of rainforests would have, how species rely on each other and the habitat.
- Identify a variety of species that are found in the rainforest and which rainforest layers they live in. Discuss what makes each species suited to that layer.
- Encourage visits to garden centres, parks or gardens to see the difference between plants and where they come from. Research on rafflesia, pitcher plants, bromeliad or liana. Consider school trips to various Botanical attractions. Encourage taking images from different perspectives as this can be used as a basis for descriptive writing.
- Research into the illegal trade of exotic animals and encourage debate on how this affects the rainforest.
- Make good choices! Reduce, reuse, recycle. Buy products with the Forest Stewardship Council logo and avoid products containing unsustainably sourced palm oil. Drink rainforest friendly certified tea, coffee and hot chocolate.
- Become a rainforest explorer new species are being discovered, so they need protection!

