



TROPICAL RAINFORESTS

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TREASURE BAY

Family Engagement in Reading



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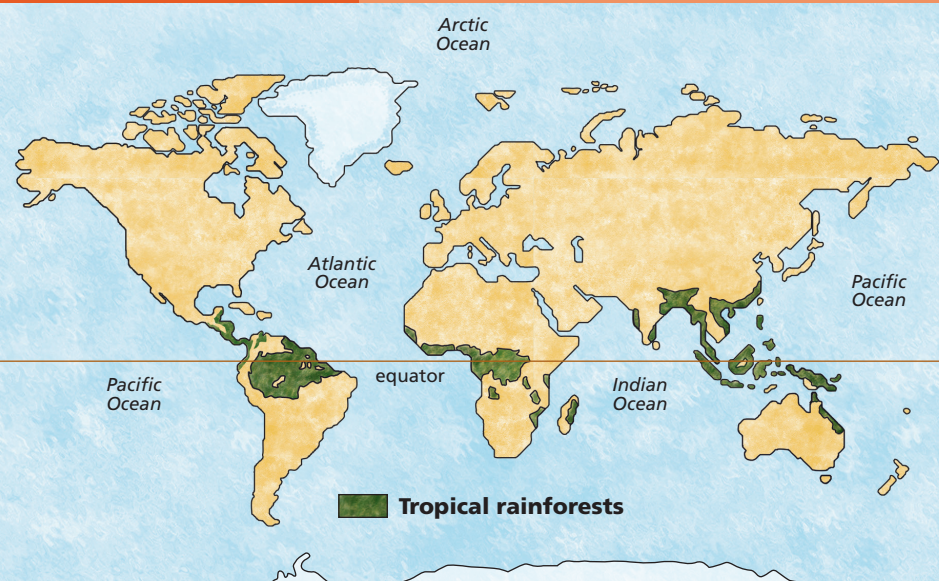
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Keel-billed
toucan

- Located in the warm areas around the world's equator, **tropical rainforests** are one of **Earth's** most diverse ecosystems. An ecosystem is an environment with many kinds of plants and animals that interact and affect the lives of each other. The loss of even one kind of plant or animal can disturb the balance of the ecosystem.

Tropical rainforests cover only about six percent of the **Earth's** surface, yet these ecosystems are home to over half of **Earth's** plant and animal species.



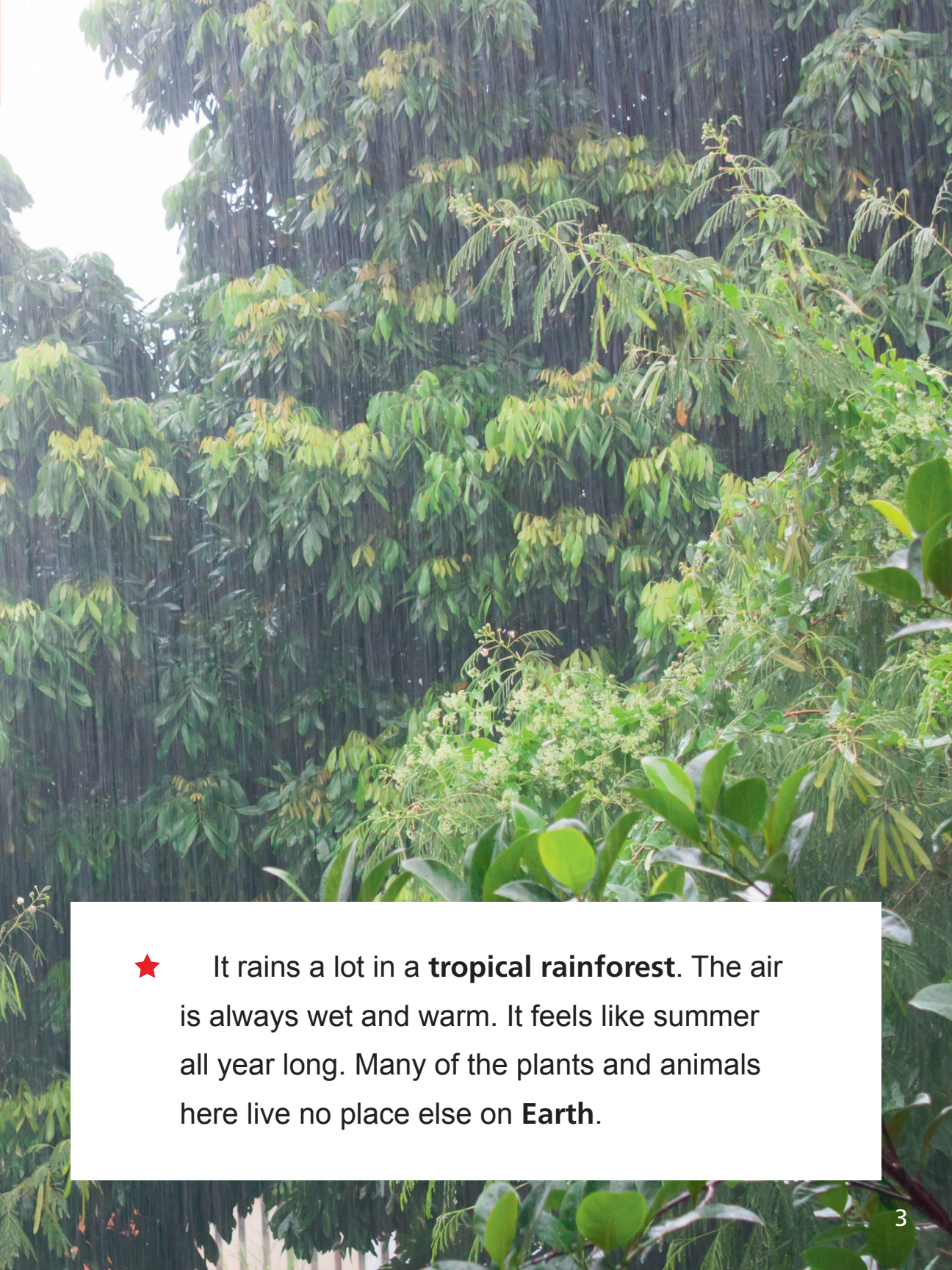
Golden lion
tamarin



Blue morpho butterfly



Red striped poison
dart frog



★ It rains a lot in a **tropical rainforest**. The air is always wet and warm. It feels like summer all year long. Many of the plants and animals here live no place else on **Earth**.



Giant anteaters can eat
30,000 ants in a day.



Jaguar

- A rainforest is made up of several layers. The bottom layer is called the **forest floor**. This is on or near the ground. The **forest floor** is filled with ferns, fungi, moss, tree roots, and small bushes. It is home to many types of rainforest cats. You might also run into elephants, anteaters, and very large snakes.



The Rafflesia flower is the
largest flower in the world
and can be up to three feet
wide. It has a really horrible
smell that attracts flies.

Forest floor



- ★ Trees in the rainforest can grow very close to each other. These trees block the sun. That makes much of the **forest floor** dark. It is also hot and wet. There are lots of bugs here. Lizards and frogs like to eat the bugs.



Green forest lizard



Jaguar

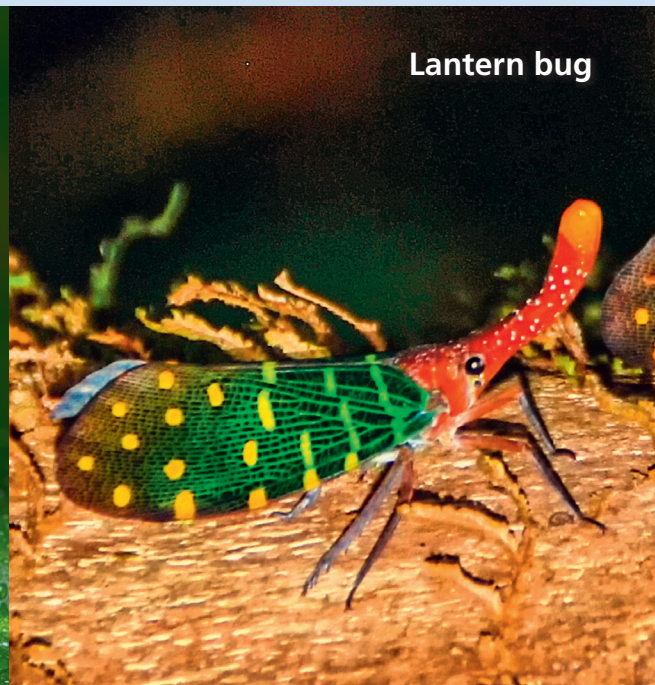


Understory

- The next layer is called the **understory**. This layer is above the ground and is thick with small trees, strong vines, shrubs, and ferns. Beautiful bright-colored flowers also grow in this layer. These trees and plants make nice homes for a vast assortment of animals, including **jaguars** who spend much of their time in the lower branches of the trees.



Red-eyed tree frog



Lantern bug



Jaguar

- ★ There are lots of birds, frogs, and snakes in the **understory**. **Jaguars** will come down from the trees at night to hunt. They mostly hunt animals on the forest floor.