



## KS2 Rainforest Activities

### Rainforest plants activity

**This activity should be completed at Marwell Zoo's Tropical House.**

The aim of this activity is to encourage the children to look out for and identify different types of plants that grow in the rainforest, and to think about the ways in which the plants are adapted to living in rainforests. The children can answer the questions through close observation of the plants. An answer sheet has been provided for you to prompt and guide the children.

### Rainforest animals activity

**On your walk around the zoo** looking for rainforest animals, the pupils can think about which **layer** of the rainforest the animals would be best at living in. They draw, or write the names of, the rainforest animals next to the layer of the rainforest where they think they might live. One example has been done as a guide and an answer sheet has been provided for you.

### Marwell map of rainforest animals

The last page helps you find the rainforest species in Marwell Zoo.

## Curriculum Links

### SCIENCE

#### Year 3 Plants

- identify and describe the functions of different parts of flowering plants: roots, stem/trunk, leaves and flowers

#### Year 4 Living things and their habitats

- recognise that environments can change and that this can sometimes pose dangers to living things

#### Year 6 Evolution and inheritance

- identify how animals and plants are adapted to suit their environment in different ways and that adaptation may lead to evolution

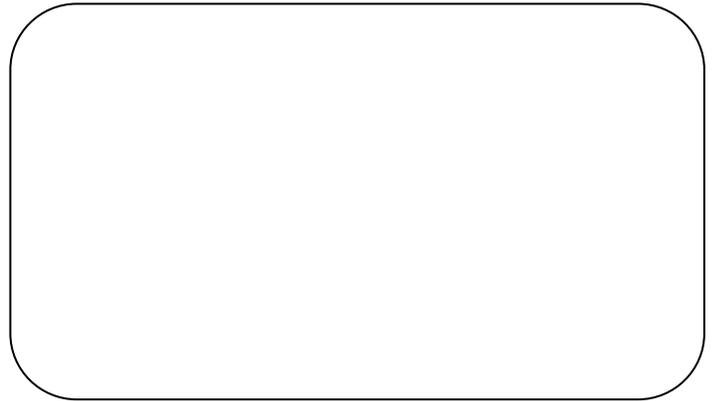
### GEOGRAPHY

#### Human and physical geography

# Rainforest Plants

Look carefully at the plants in the Tropical House. Can you work out how they are adapted to living in tropical rainforests?

**Epiphytes** grow on other plants. Can you find an **epiphyte**? There are many different types. Draw your favourite in the box.



Can you spot its **aerial roots**? Why do they have these?

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How do you think they stay on the plant?

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What advantage might it give them?

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How many different plants can you see with **drip tip leaves**?



Why are these types of leaves useful in rainforests?

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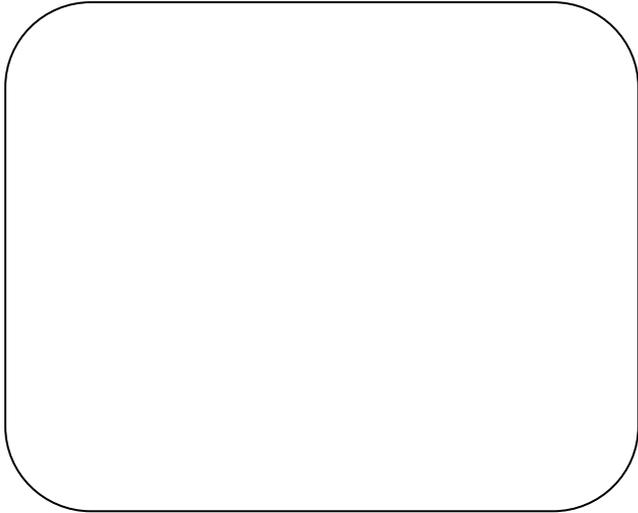
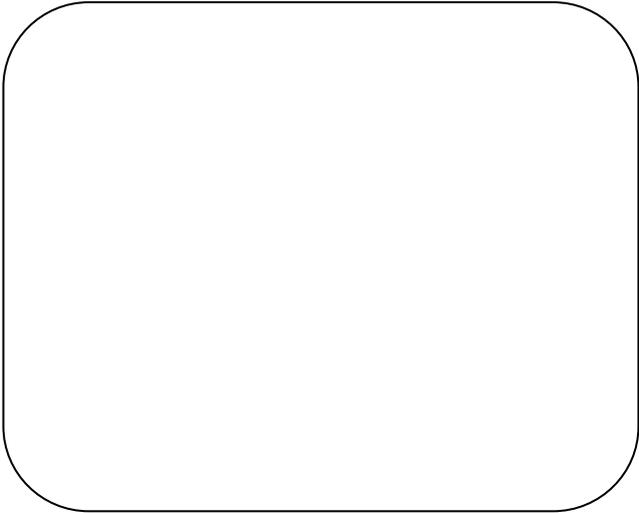
Can you find a **bromeliad**? Look very closely. Can you see that the leaves overlap at their bases? This makes a miniature pond!



Why do you think this is useful for the plant?

.....  
.....  
.....

Look at the plants on the floor of the tropical house. What are their leaves like? Draw a leaf from two different types of plant.



How might this help them survive on the forest floor?

.....  
.....  
.....

# Rainforest Plants

## Answer sheet

**Epiphytes** have **aerial roots** so they can capture moisture and nutrients from rain.

**Epiphytes** stay on other plants by wrapping their roots around branches.

This means they can reach the light in the higher layers of the rainforest.

**Drip tip leaves** help water drip quickly off leaves, which means they can breathe and won't rot.

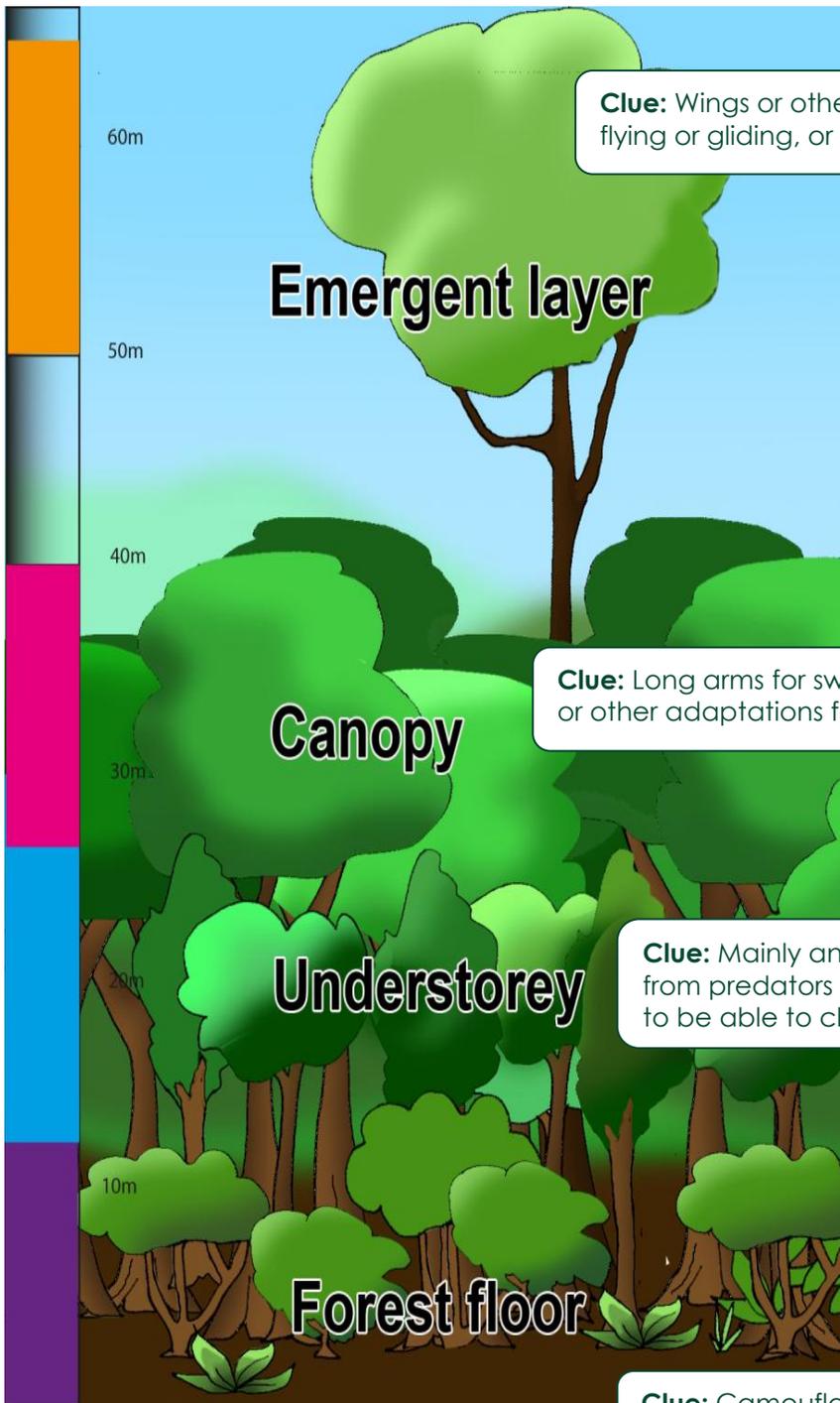
**Bromeliads** have overlapping leaves so they can use the water and nutrients that are collected in the 'pond' between their leaves.

Plants that live on the rainforest floor tend to have **large** leaves to help capture the small amount of sunlight that reaches the forest floor.

# Rainforest Animals

On your walk around the zoo looking for rainforest animals, think about which **layer** of the rainforest they would be best at living in.

Draw or write the names of the rainforest animals you see in the layer of the rainforest you think they might live in. One example has been done for you.



**Emergent layer**

60m

**Canopy**

50m

40m

30m

**Understorey**

20m

10m

**Forest floor**

**Clue:** Wings or other adaptations for flying or gliding, or very agile climbers.

**Clue:** Long arms for swinging, claws or other adaptations for climbing.

**Clue:** Mainly animals who try to hide away from predators in the flowers and plants (need to be able to climb).

**Clue:** Camouflaged in the soil and tree trunks. Not very good at climbing.



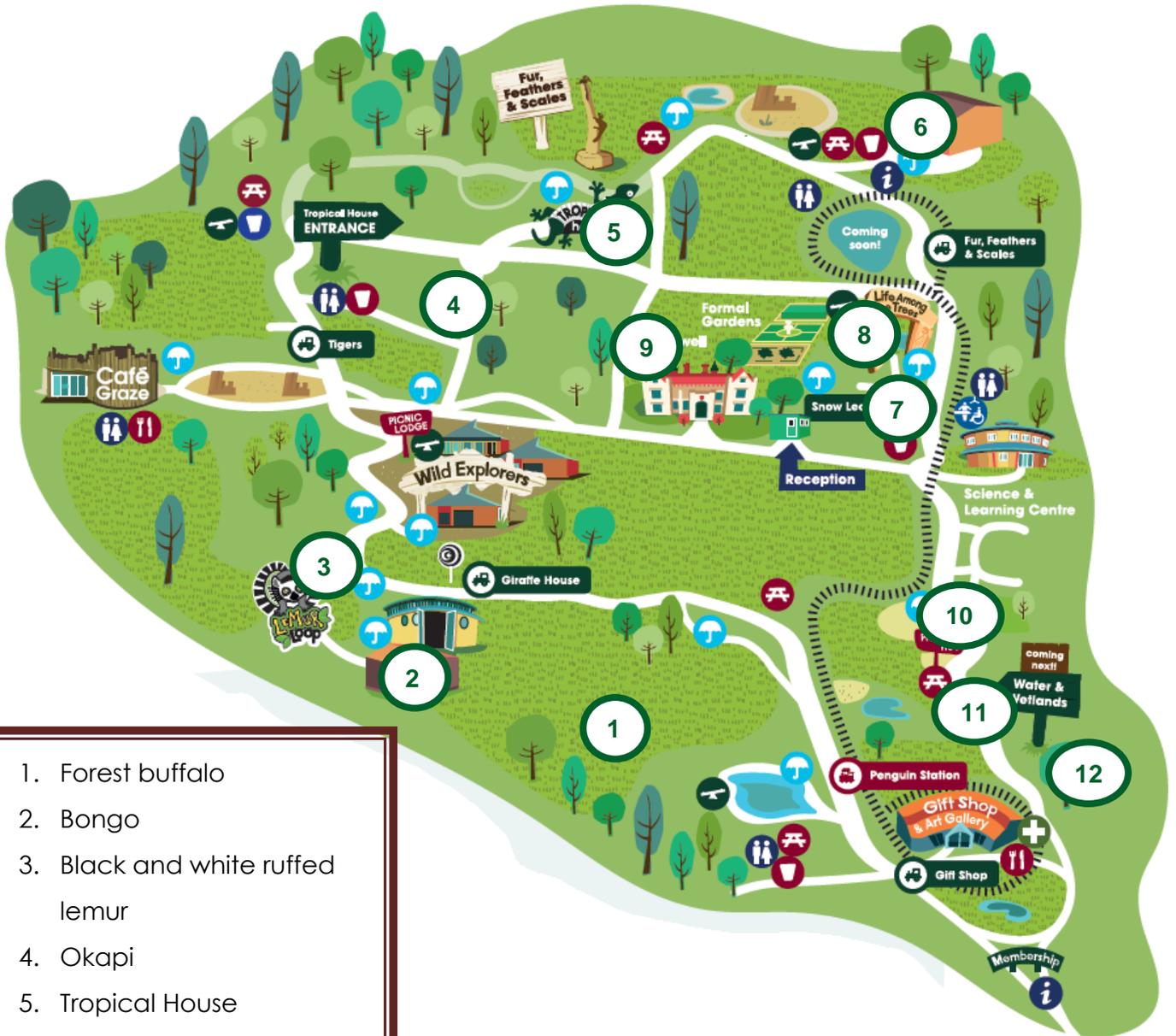
**The okapi lives on the forest floor**

# Rainforest animals

## Answer sheet

Rainforest Floor	Understorey	Canopy
Madagascar tree boa		Black and white ruffed lemur
Beaded lizard	Pygmy marmoset	Siamang gibbon
Binturong - they spend most of their time in the trees, but because they are heavy and not very agile, they have to climb down to the ground to get from one tree to another.		
Bongo	Golden lion tamarin	Linne's two-toed sloth
Okapi	Cotton top tamarin	Fischer's Turaco
Crocodile monitor		
Collared peccary		
Pygmy hippo		
Lowland anoa		
Lowland tapir		
Forest buffalo		
Yellow-throated frog		

# Rainforest Animals



1. Forest buffalo
2. Bongo
3. Black and white ruffed lemur
4. Okapi
5. Tropical House
6. Madagascar tree boa and beaded lizard
7. Binturong
8. Siamang gibbon and lowland anoa
9. Tamarins and marmosets
10. Pygmy hippo
11. Lowland tapir
12. Collared peccary