

Jungles are places that are overgrown with lots of plants, trees and bushes. Although not much of the world is covered by jungle, half of the animals in the world live in a jungle. This means that they live very closely together.



A rainforest is a type of jungle that is a particular climate. Tropical rainforests are warm and have a lot of rainfall. They have a wet, damp floor but not many plants. Only a small amount of sunlight reaches the floor due to the thick, tall trees. It can take 10 minutes for a drop of rain to travel from the trees to the floor.



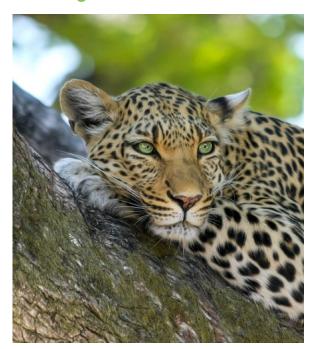
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Jungle and Rainforest

Coffee, chocolate, rice, tomatoes, potatoes, bananas, black pepper, pineapples and corn all originally came from rainforests. There are over 3000 different types of fruits grown in rainforests, which is much more than in the United Kingdom.



Although lions are known as 'the king of the jungle', they actually live in grasslands. Leopards have recently been called 'the true king of the jungle', as they are quiet, fast and have strong eyesight, which means they are good at chasing and hunting animals for food in the jungle. They can also leap through trees, up high.



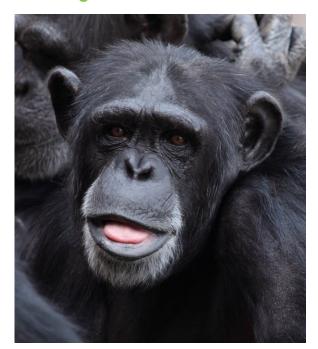
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Jungle and Rainforest

It is difficult for some insects and animals to survive in the jungle, so they have developed ways to camouflage into their surroundings. Chameleons can change their colour to blend into their surroundings, stick insects look like sticks if they stay still and some butterflies can look like leaves.



Chimpanzees (chimps) are human's closest relatives, demonstrating both clever and violent behaviour. They live in groups of 30-150 chimps, called 'communities'. When baby chimps are born, they are strong enough to cling to their mother's tummy as she walks through the jungle.



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Jungle and Rainforest

Jaguars look similar to leopards, but they are bigger with a rounder head. Scientists believe that there is only one species of jaguar, that ranges in size and colour. A baby jaguar is called a 'cub'. Baby cubs are born blind and the mother has to carry them in her mouth to protect them from other animals.



Tigers are the biggest of the cat family. There are many different types of tigers that live in different countries. These include Siberian/Amur, Sumatran, Malaysian, Indochinese and Bengal. Baby tigers are called 'cubs' and when they are born, their mother moves nests every day or two, to keep them safe.



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Jungle and Rainforest

There are over 5000 species of frog in the world and most of them are found in rainforests. Poison dart frogs are one of the most brightly coloured animals on our planet. These frogs lay frogspawn on land and when it hatches into tadpoles, they climb onto their mother's back so she can take them to water.



There are 170 000 different plants in the rainforest. Plants are important to keep the rainforest thriving. They are very important for animals, as they provide food and places to hide. Scientists have used many rainforest plants to make medicines we use regularly.



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Jungle and Rainforest

Therearerainforests in countries all over the world. Tropical rainforests are found along the equator, the hottest part of our planet. You will find tropical rainforests in Brazil, Peru, Indonesia, Colombia, Bolivia, India, Malaysia, Mexico, Papua New Guinea and Venezuela.



Rainforests are in danger of being cut down to make space for houses and farms, as well as to be used for their wood and to make paper. We can support rainforests by buying paper that has been recycled. It is important to look after the rainforest, as it is home to so many animals.



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Jungle and Rainforest

Parrots can crack nuts with their beaks. Sloths in South America move so slowly that algae grows on their fur. This then helps them blend into the trees. Some rainforests have flying frogs. These frogs use their webbed feet to parachute down from trees.

