

Rainforest

The Tree Tops

High up in the tree tops it is sunny and warm. There is no winter in the rainforest, so there are leaves, flowers and fruits to eat all year around.

Langurs are leaf-eating monkeys that live in the tree tops. Where there are leaves, there are bound to be caterpillars and the rainforest is full of glorious butterflies. Iguanas are leaf-eating lizards that climb up to feed and sunbathe.

There are wonderful fruits in the tree tops. Toucans, hornbills and parrots love to eat them and so do spider monkeys.

Eagles soar above the canopy looking for birds and monkeys to eat.

Many of the animals which live in the tree tops never come down to the ground. If they did, they might not be able to climb back up the smooth tree-trunks.

Even ants climb all the way up here to pick leaves and take them down to their nests under the ground. They don't eat the leaves but use them to grow mushrooms to eat.

Hunters and Killers

Predators have to catch and kill other animals to survive. They need to detect their prey before it sees them. They then stalk, ambush or outrun it before it escapes, incapacitating it before it can do them harm. Predators have very acute senses. Predators who hunt during the day rely on their brilliant eyesight to find prey. Nocturnal hunters use other skills such as hearing and smell or the ability to detect vibrations made by approaching animals. Prey animals have their own defences and means of avoiding capture, such as camouflage.

Red-Kneed Tarantula

As well as dry rocky places, the red-kneed tarantula lives in humid forests. During the day, it stays in its silk-lined burrow. After dark, it emerges to hunt for large insects or small invertebrates. It injects prey with venom that quickly causes paralysis.

Leopard

The leopard hunts by leaping on prey from above and killing it with a bite to the throat or neck.

Black Caiman

Lurking unseen in the water, caiman are capable of surprising bursts of speed as they lunge forwards to grab a drinking animal by the muzzle. They kill their catch by dragging it underwater until it drowns.