



Welcome to the Rain Forest

by Honor Head

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Words shown in **bold** in the text are explained in the glossary.



Welcome to the Rain Forest

Who and what lives in the wet, hot, steamy Amazon rain forest?

This **habitat** is home to tall trees, ferns, and many other plants.

The animals that live in this habitat include jaguars, birds, and frogs.



Every living thing in the rain forest gets what it needs to live from its habitat.



A rain forest is one of the wettest places on Earth. It is made up of four layers—the forest floor, the understory, the canopy, and the top, or emergent trees. Very little sunlight reaches the ground through the thick trees.

Let's explore the Amazon rain forest floor...

On the Rain Forest Floor

The rain forest floor is dark and damp.

It is covered with a layer of **leaf litter**.

This is made up of fallen trees, branches, leaves, flowers, and fruit.

In the steamy forest, the leaf litter soon rots and becomes part of the soil. The trees take up the **nutrients** they need to be healthy from the soil.



Cup fungi

Fungi feed on the rotting plants.

Millipedes help recycle dead leaves by eating them.

Their poop, which is filled with nutrients, gets mixed into the soil.



Agouti



An agouti finds a feast of fallen fruit.

What happens to some of the rain that falls on the forest?