



Rainforest Vocabulary



Adaptation	A characteristic or behavior that helps a plant or animal survive in the environment.
Biodiversity	Many different kinds of living things.
Camouflage	Any color, shape, or pattern adaptation that allows an animal to blend in with its surroundings.
Canopy	The layer of tropical rain forest below the emergent layer and above the understory; it traps most of the sunlight and water and is able to support the majority of rain forest life.
Conservation	The wise use of natural resources
Decomposition	The process in which nutrients are cycled into the soil from dead plant and animal material.
Deforestation	Destruction of a forest.
Ecologist	A person who studies ecosystems
Ecosystem	An area or environment of any size where living and nonliving things interact with one another.
Emergent	The uppermost layer in a tropical rain forest characterized by tall trees.
Epiphyte	A plant that grows on other plants but receives its nourishment by trapping nutrients from precipitation.
Food web	A series of interconnecting food chains that represent the feeding relationships of organisms within an ecosystem.
Forest floor	The bottom layer in a tropical rain forest to where plant and animal matter falls.
Habitat	The place where a plant or animal lives that has food, water, shelter, and space.
Humidity	A measure of the amount of moisture in the air expressed as a percentage.
Indigenous	A plant, animal, or person existing naturally to a region; a native species.
Interdependence	The reliance of two or more different things upon one another for survival.
Natural Resources	Materials found in nature that are useful or necessary for living things
Precipitation	Moisture condensed in the form of rain, snow, sleet, or hail.
Sustainable Development	Development which practices conservation by utilizing natural resources efficiently to meet current demands, yet allowing them to renew themselves to meet demands of the future.
Transpiration	The process in which gases and water are lost by plants through tiny holes in the leaves.
Understory	The dark, still, and humid tropical rain forest layer beneath the canopy and above the forest floor.