

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## In the Rain Forest

Some of the world’s most interesting plants and animals live in tropical rain forests. These forests are near the equator, in a part of the world called the tropics. The climate there is always warm. Tropical rain forests usually get rainfall every day.	12 27 39 43
A rain forest has four layers. The bottom layer is called the forest floor. It is quite dark. Very little sunlight filters through the tall trees. The forest floor is also very damp. Water drips off the plants after the rain, and even the air is wet. Nothing ever really dries out in this first layer.	57 71 86 99
The second layer up is the understory. Many kinds of animals live in the smaller trees that grow in this layer.	113 120
The third layer up is the canopy. Even more animals live here. At this level are the tops of many trees. The leaves and branches of different trees link together. The canopy is like a roof.	134 148 156
The fourth and top layer in the forest is the emergent layer. It includes the tops of the tallest trees. Some are more than 200 feet (61 m) tall. These trees get the most sunlight and rain.	171 187 193
Many plants grow only in the rain forest. These plants have developed ways to live there. Myco-heterotrophs are one kind of plant that lives on the forest floor. Not much sunlight reaches them. Most plants must have sunlight to make their own food. Myco-heterotrophs get food another way. Their roots draw food from the fungi that decompose dead leaves and flowers.	205 219 231 242 254
Many rain forest flowers are high in the trees. In most rain forests, the trees flower at different times. Some flowers in the rain forest only bloom once every five years!	268 281 285

