

Welcome to a Tropical Rain Forest

Rain Forest Animals

What creatures make this habitat their home?

A **tropical rain forest** is a warm, rainy place. Many trees and plants grow there. Hidden in the thick forest are amazing animals. Here are just a few of them.

Toucan



Blickwinkel/Alamy

Toucans are birds with huge beaks. They live in the leafy tops of trees. They eat mostly fruit.

Have you ever wondered why a toucan's beak is so large? Scientists recently found an answer. They say the big beak helps the bird control its body temperature. When a toucan is warm, its beak releases the extra heat

into the air.

Green Iguana

Green iguanas are **reptiles**. A reptile is an animal that has hard, dry skin. Green iguanas are large. They are usually between 4 and 6 feet long and weigh about 11 pounds. Their sharp claws help them climb trees. They eat leaves, flowers, and fruit.

Jaguar



Jeff Hunter/Getty Images

Jaguars are wild cats. They spend most of their time in small trees and on the forest floor. They are top **predators** in the rain forest. A predator is an animal that eats other animals for food. Jaguars hunt for food mostly at night. They are good swimmers. Sometimes they catch fish to eat.



DLILLC/Corbis

Sloths have shaggy fur. These animals live in tree branches. Sloths are very slow. They do not move much. They hang upside down using their long claws.

To save energy, sloths sleep 15 to 18 hours a day. They look for food the rest of the time. They eat leaves and fruit.

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

1. What is the weather like in a tropical rain forest?

2. Why do toucans have such large beaks?

3. Which is more dangerous, a jaguar or a sloth?

4. The passage "Welcome to a Tropical Rain Forest" deals mainly with what topic?

5. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the word that best completes the sentence.

A jaguar hunts other animals for food, _____ it is an example of a predator.

- A. but
- B. because
- C. so

6. Which picture below shows the habitat of a whale?

