

3 Rain Forests

Tropical rain forests grow near the equator, in the hottest parts of the world. Rain forests are always wet. The moisture just never dries up.

The trees in a rain forest are very tall and have very few limbs. The leaves are all at the top. They form a high ceiling. Very little sunlight comes through the leaves. Inside a rain forest it is as dark and quiet as a church.

There are very few low-growing plants on the rain forest floor. Walking through a rain forest is like being at a circus's high trapeze show—the most exciting things are happening high above the ground. Monkeys swing on vines, with baby monkeys on their backs. Large snakes crawl from branch to branch. Giant bats make squeaky noises.

The animals that stay near the ground are fascinating, too. The gentle tapir, which looks like a small horse with a long nose, covers itself with mud from head to foot. When the mud dries, it forms a kind of armor. It protects the tapir from biting insects. Another ground animal is the anteater. It has a long, sticky tongue that works like a fly trap. But the tongue is really an ant trap. For breakfast, lunch, and dinner the anteater eats nothing but ants, ants, and more ants!

Main Idea	1	Answer	Score
Mark the <i>main idea</i>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> M	15
Mark the statement that is <i>too broad</i>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> B	5
Mark the statement that is <i>too narrow</i>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N	5
a. Many animals in the rain forest stay high in the trees.		<input type="checkbox"/>	
b. A rain forest is a home for many interesting animals.		<input type="checkbox"/>	
c. Many interesting animals live in tropical climates.		<input type="checkbox"/>	

Score 15 points for each correct answer.

- Subject Matter** 2 This passage is mainly about
 a. trees.
 b. tropical rain forests.
 c. anteaters.
 d. monkeys.
- Supporting Details** 3 Mud protects the tapir from
 a. monkeys.
 b. anteaters.
 c. the heat.
 d. biting insects.
- Conclusion** 4 It is probable that few plants grow on the rain forest floor because
 a. there is not enough light.
 b. most animals are in the trees.
 c. there is not enough water.
 d. it is too hot.
- Clarifying Devices** 5 The activity in a rain forest is compared to
 a. a zoo.
 b. a church.
 c. a circus trapeze show.
 d. a tropical pet shop.
- Vocabulary in Context** 6 A fascinating animal is
 a. dangerous
 b. interesting
 c. frightening
 d. active.