

# The Rainforest Grew All Around



By Susan K. Mitchell   Illustrated by Connie McLennan





# The Rainforest Grew All Around

Imaginations will soar from the rainforest floor, up through the canopy and back down again, following the circle of life in this clever adaptation of the song *The Green Grass Grew All Around*. The jungle comes alive as children learn about a wide variety of the animals and plants living in the lush Amazon rainforest. Search each page to find rainforest bugs and butterflies in the illustrations.

It's so much more than a picture book . . . this book is specifically designed to be both a fun-to-read story and a launch pad for discussions and learning. Whether read at home or in a classroom, we encourage adults to do the activities with the young children in their lives. Free online resources and support at [www.ArbordalePublishing.com](http://www.ArbordalePublishing.com) include:

- For Creative Minds as seen in the book (in English & Spanish):
  - Rainforest Animal Adaptations
  - Plant Adaptations
  - Seed Dispersal
  - What Comes From the Rainforest?
  - Rainforest Cookie Recipe
- Teaching Activities (to do at home or school):
  - Reading Questions
  - Math
  - Language Arts
  - Geography
  - Science
  - Coloring Pages
- Interactive Quizzes: Reading Comprehension, For Creative Minds, and Math Word Problems
- English and Spanish Audiobooks
- Related Websites
- Aligned to State Standards (searchable database)
- Accelerated Reader and Reading Counts! Quizzes
- Lexile and Fountas & Pinnell Reading Levels

eBooks with Auto-Flip, Auto-Read, and selectable English and Spanish text and audio available for purchase online.

Thanks to David Oren of the Nature Conservancy, Amazon Conservation Program for verifying the accuracy of the information in this book.

**Susan K. Mitchell** loves creating a silly world of words for kids. While using the song *The Green Grass Grew All Around* in her preschool class, she saw the excitement her students had learning about life cycles in a fun medium. "They grew gigglier and more out of breath as the song grew longer and longer," Susan says of her students. Since the rainforest is one of the most complex ecosystems on our planet, she knew she could make it fun to learn about. She created a story that grew higher and higher, building on each plant and animal that resides in the endangered rainforest until the end becomes the beginning again! In addition to this book, Susan is the author of *Kersplatypus* and *Stone Pizza* and is a member of the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators. She lives outside of Houston.

**Connie McLennan** has been a successful freelance artist for almost 25 years since attending Academy of Art College in San Francisco. Some of Connie's many titles include *The Rainforest Grew All Around*, *Water Beds: Sleeping in the Ocean*, *River Beds: Sleeping in the World's Rivers*, *Octavia and Her Purple Ink Cloud*, and *Mother Osprey: Nursery Rhymes for Buoys & Gulls*. Connie lives in northern California.



Susan K. Mitchell



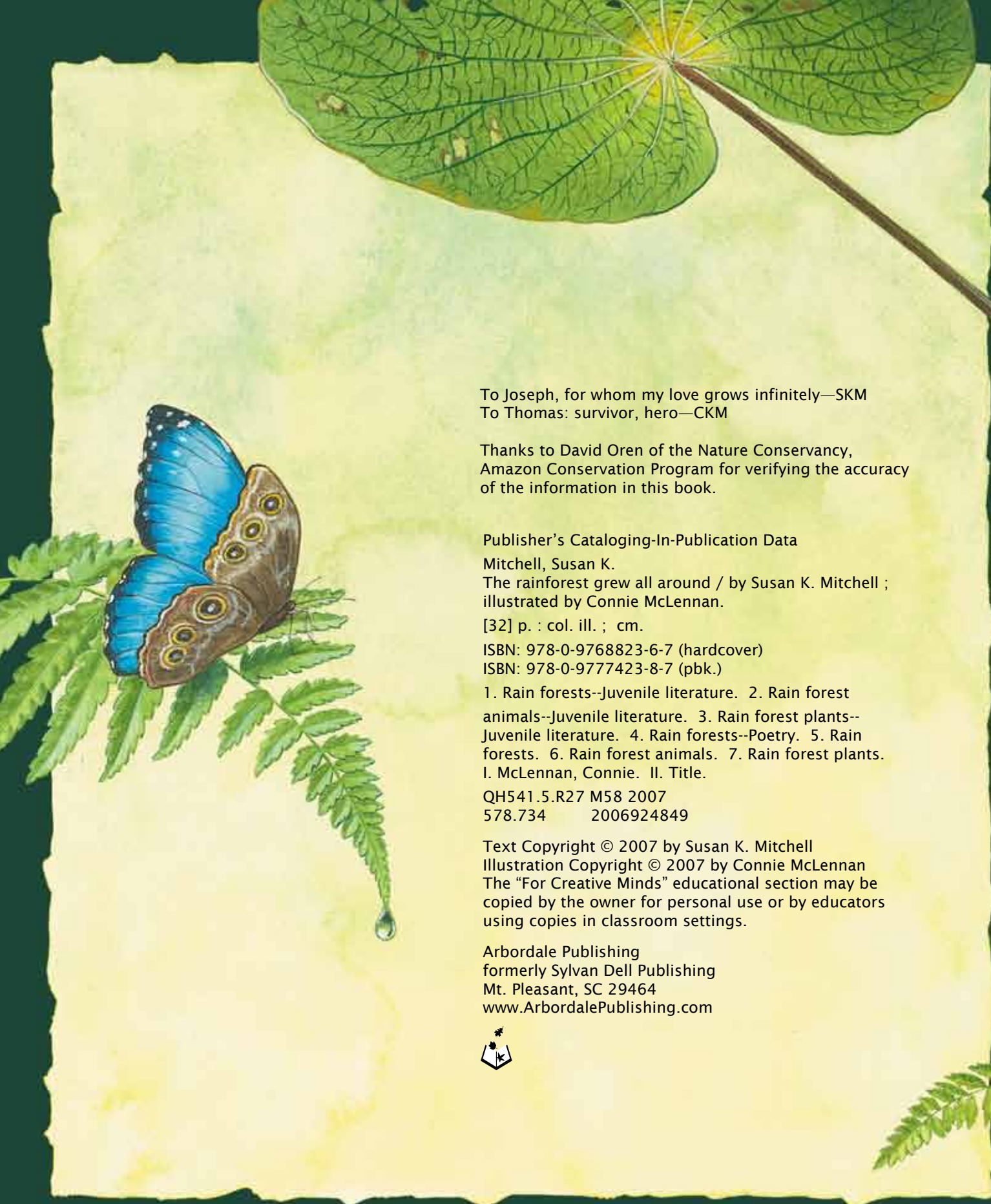
Connie McLennan

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To Joseph, for whom my love grows infinitely—SKM  
To Thomas: survivor, hero—CKM

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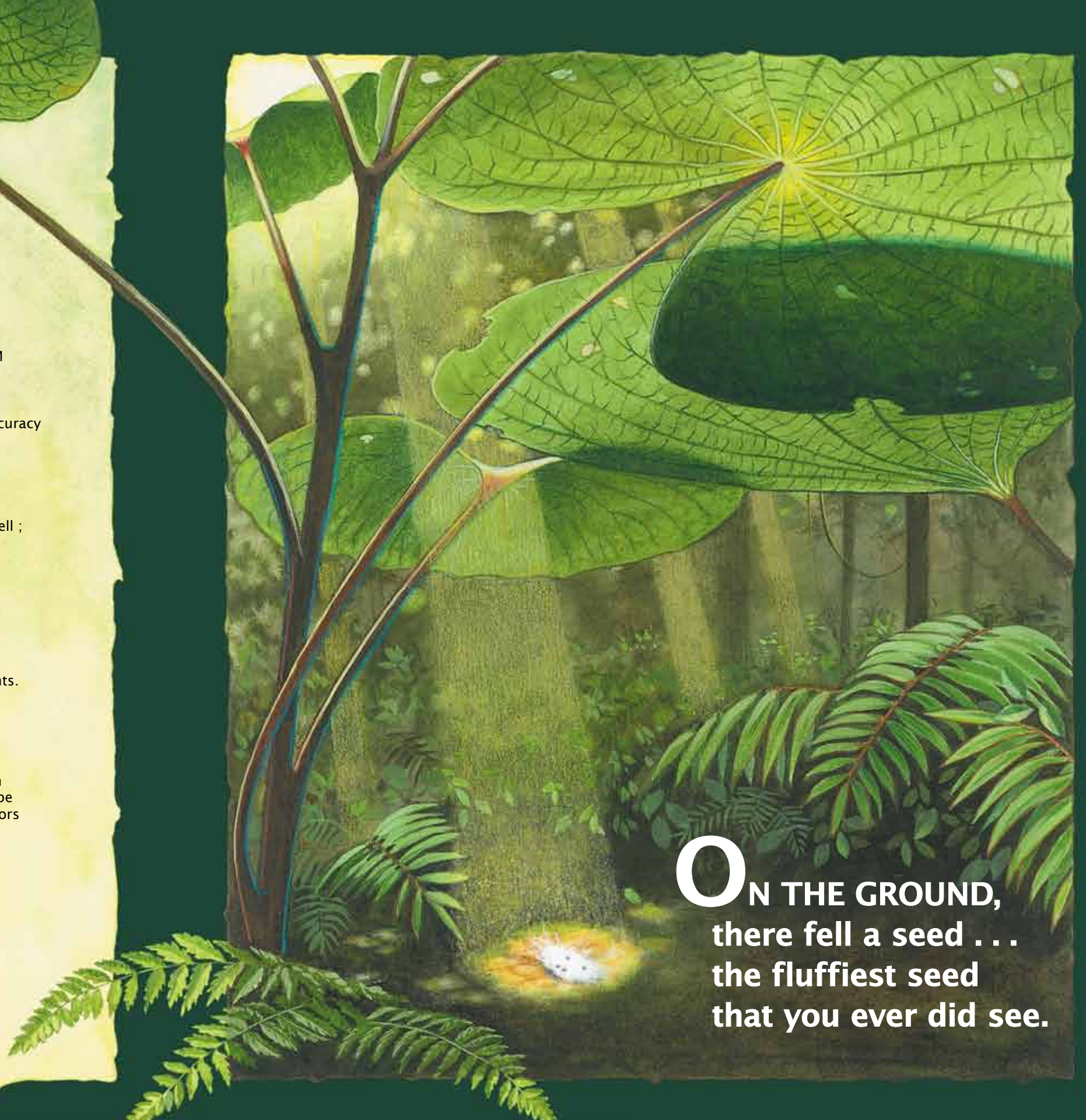
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**O** N THE GROUND,  
there fell a seed . . .  
the fluffiest seed  
that you ever did see.





**The seed in the ground,  
and the rainforest grew  
all around, all around;  
the rainforest grew all around.**

Between seventy and one hundred inches of rain fall in the Amazon Rainforest each year.

The Amazon River is over 4,000 miles long and rises over 40 feet during the rainy season just because of the rain.

A rainforest receives an average of at least 60 inches of rain per year.

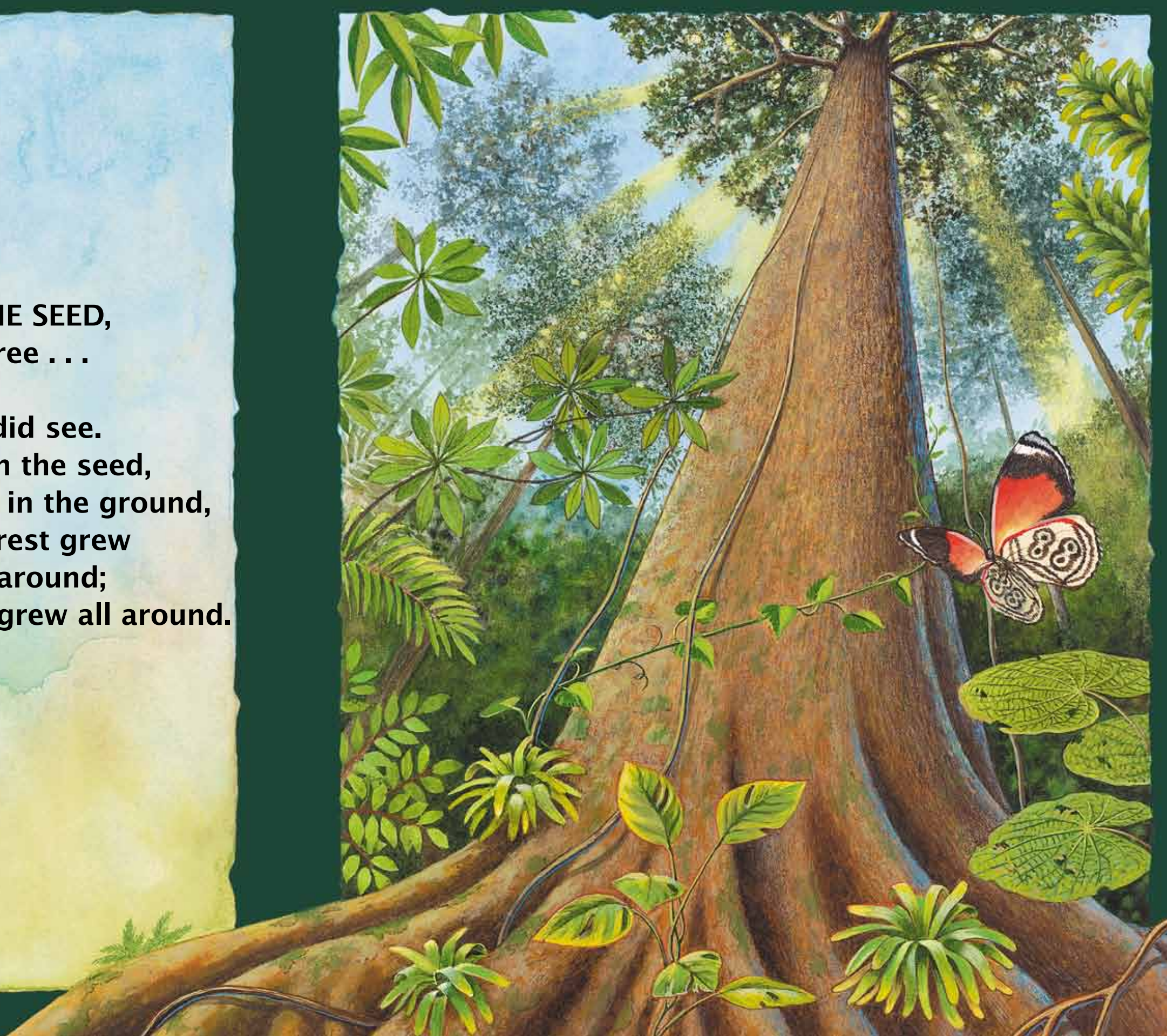


Kapok trees can grow between 150 and 200 feet— as tall as a 15 to 20-story building!

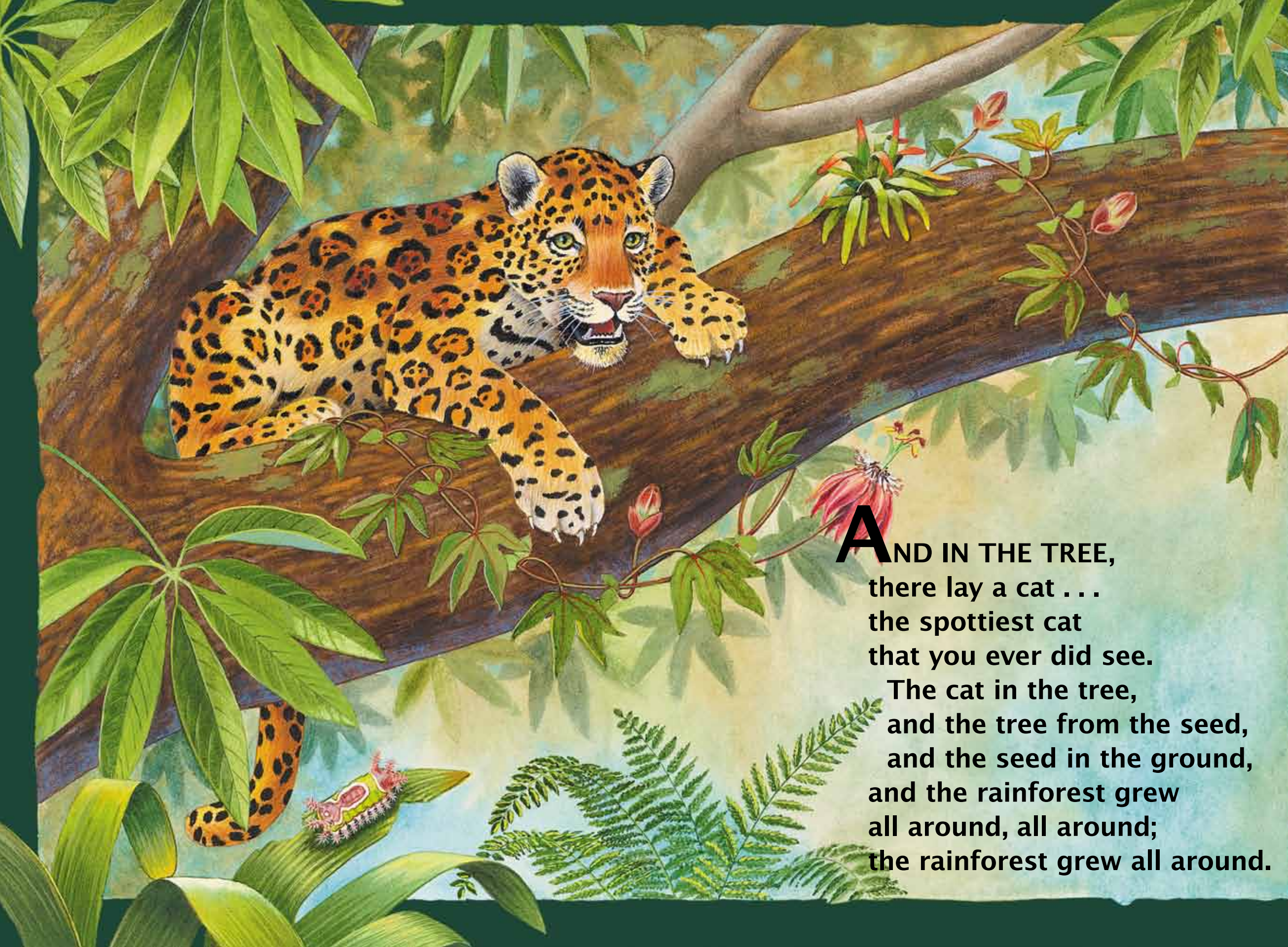
Kapoks, also called Ceiba or Silk Cotton trees, grow in Africa, and Central and South America.



**A**ND FROM THE SEED,  
there grew a tree . . .  
the tallest tree  
that you ever did see.  
The tree from the seed,  
and the seed in the ground,  
and the rainforest grew  
all around, all around;  
the rainforest grew all around.



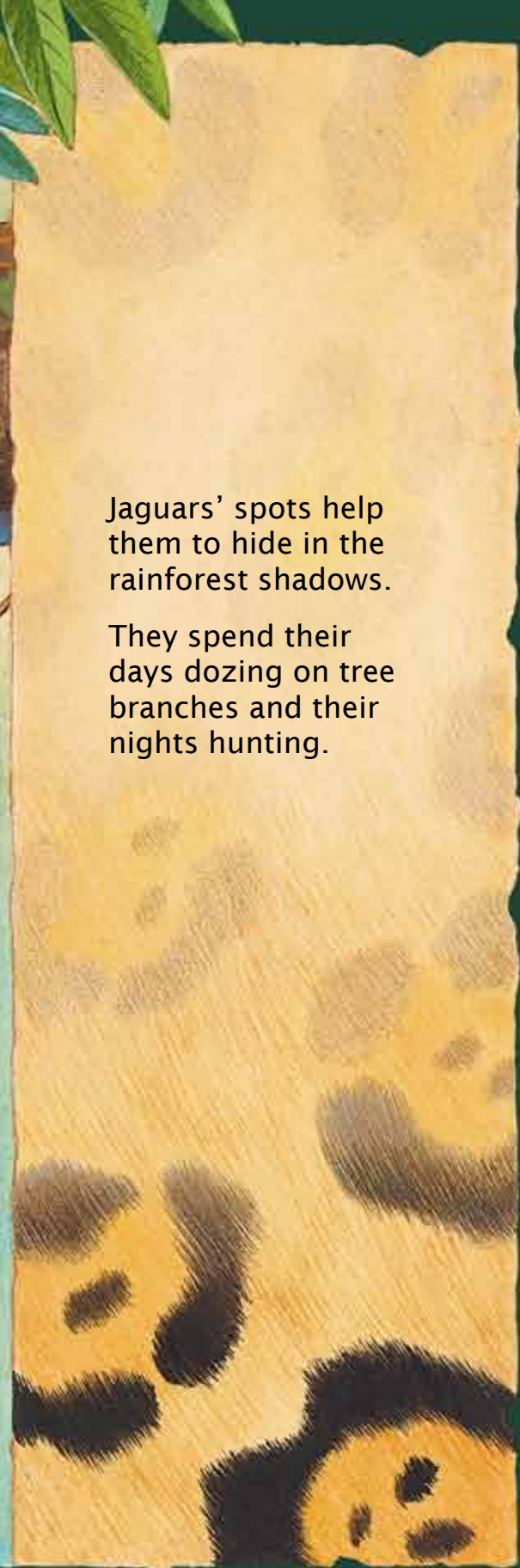




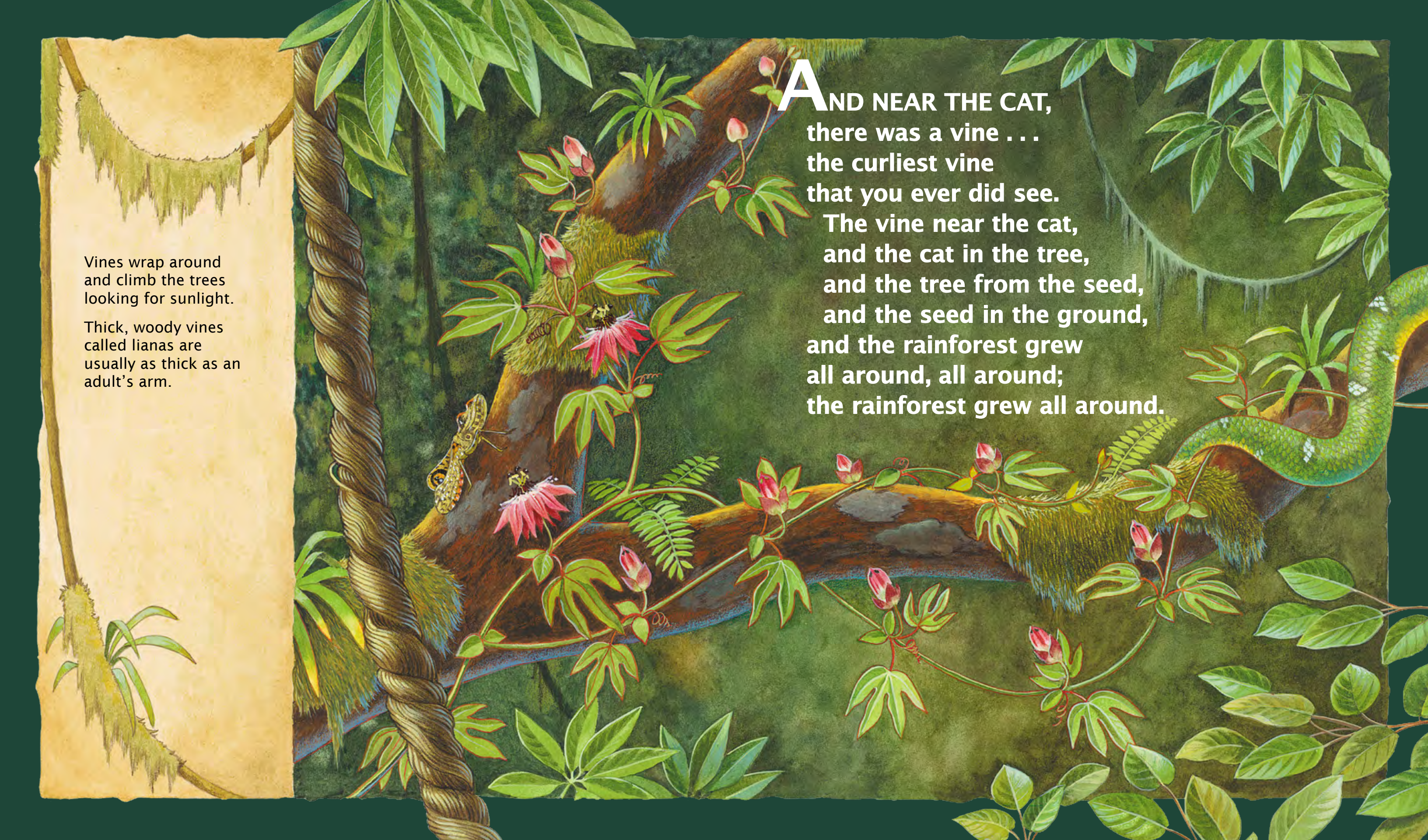
Jaguars' spots help them to hide in the rainforest shadows.

They spend their days dozing on tree branches and their nights hunting.

**A**ND IN THE TREE,  
there lay a cat . . .  
the spottiest cat  
that you ever did see.  
The cat in the tree,  
and the tree from the seed,  
and the seed in the ground,  
and the rainforest grew  
all around, all around;  
the rainforest grew all around.







Vines wrap around  
and climb the trees  
looking for sunlight.

Thick, woody vines  
called lianas are  
usually as thick as an  
adult's arm.

**A**ND NEAR THE CAT,  
there was a vine . . .  
the curliest vine  
that you ever did see.

The vine near the cat,  
and the cat in the tree,  
and the tree from the seed,  
and the seed in the ground,  
and the rainforest grew  
all around, all around;  
the rainforest grew all around.



# For Creative Minds

For easy use, the “For Creative Minds” section may be photocopied or downloaded from *The Rainforest Grew All Around* homepage at [www.ArbordalePublishing.com](http://www.ArbordalePublishing.com) by the owner of this book. Please do not write or color in the book itself.

Adaptations help animals to live in their habitat: to get food and water, to protect themselves from predators, to survive weather, and even to help them make their homes. Can you match the animals to the adaptations that help them live in the rainforest? Answers are upside-down at bottom of page.

1. Their spots help them hide.
2. These mammals have wings to fly.
3. Their green coloring helps them to hide in the leaves.
4. Curved claws help them hold onto tree branches.
5. Bright colors warn other animals of their poison.
6. Large beaks and flexible necks help them pick fruit from the trees.
7. Fake eyes confuse would-be predators.
8. They use their strong jaws to cut leaves.



A. Sloths



B. Emerald Tree Boas



C. Toucans



D. Owl Butterflies



E. Bats



F. Leafcutter Ants



G. Jaguars



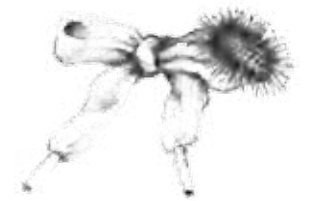
H. Poison Dart Frogs

Just like animals, plants have adaptations to help them survive in the rainforest and even in your own backyard. If seeds were to fall directly under the parent plant, the seedlings would not have enough room, sunlight, water, or nutrients to survive. Because of this, seeds get carried away from the parent in several different ways: Can you match the seed or carrier to how the seeds are spread?

1. Wind helps to blow seeds away from the parent. Have you ever blown on dandelion thistles to make them “fly?”

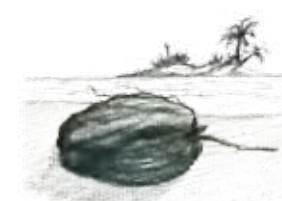


A. Bumble bee on flower



E. Cocklebur on shoelace

2. Animals eat the fruit or seeds. When the animals defecate (go to the bathroom), they leave the seeds far away from the parent plant.



B. Coconut in ocean



F. Squirrel with acorn

3. Some seeds stick to the fur or hair of an animal. Have you ever had anything stick to you or your clothes?



C. Corn in field

4. Animals may bury seeds to eat later but then forget about them.

5. Humans plant seeds on purpose. How do you think early humans first thought to plant seeds? How did it change their lives?



D. Toucan eating fig

6. Animals spread pollen from one plant to another when they fly.

7. Some seeds float on water.



G. Maple “Whirlybirds”



D. Toucan eating fig





## What do we use from the rainforest?

Even though we may live a long way from a rainforest, we eat and use lots of things from the area. Air; medicines; mahogany and teak wood; rubber; chocolate; gum; Brazil nuts; cashews; coffee; coconuts; spices like pepper, cinnamon, and vanilla; and fruit like pineapples, bananas, mangos, and papayas are just some of the rainforest items that we use on a regular basis. What are some items that we use just as they grow or come from the rainforest? What are some things that we use part of or change to make useful to us? What would happen if the rainforests were to disappear?

### Rainforest Cookies

These cookies use several ingredients that come from the rainforest.

Preheat oven to 375° F.

2 to 2 ¼ cups all purpose flour	½ cup brown sugar
1 tsp. baking soda	1 tsp. vanilla extract
1 tsp. salt	2 eggs
1 tsp. cinnamon	¼ cup sweetened coconut flakes
1 stick butter (1/2 cup), softened	4 cups (12 oz) chocolate chips
1 medium ripe banana	1 cup chopped cashews
½ cup granulated sugar	

Combine 2 cups flour, baking soda, salt, and cinnamon and set aside.

Beat butter, banana, and sugars until creamy.

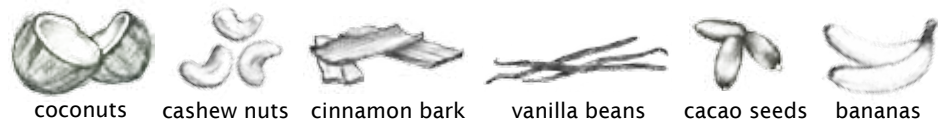
Beat in eggs and then add the coconut flakes.

Gradually add flour mixture using extra flour if needed.

Stir in the chocolate chips and cashews.

Drop by rounded tablespoon onto an ungreased baking sheet.

Bake 10 to 12 minutes until golden brown.



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