

For Creative Minds

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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



G. Maple “Whirlybirds”

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.



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.



coconuts



cashew nuts



cinnamon bark



vanilla beans



cacao seeds



bananas

