

Fifth Grade

English Language Learners

Academic Packet

Student _____

School _____



Please follow your teacher's instruction on use and return of packets.
Por favor siga las instrucciones de su maestro sobre el uso y la devolución de los paquetes.
Tanpri swiv enstriksyon pwofesè w sou jan pou w itilize ak retounen pakè yo.
Por favor, siga as instruções do professor sobre o uso e o retorno dos pacotes

Week 2

April 6-April 10, 2020

Name: _____

Rainforest Explorer

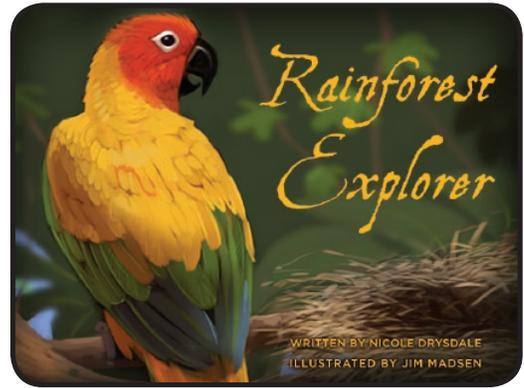
Lesson 107

Paired with *Searching*—Advanced

Written by Nicole Drysdale

Illustrated by Jim Madsen

Lexile®: 900, 689 words



Congratulations! You've been selected to explore the Amazon Rainforest. The Amazon Rainforest is located in South America and is one of the most complex ecosystems on the planet. Because of their wet, warm climates, rainforests can support many types of life. The weather, plants, insects, and animals all work together to keep the forest alive.

Rainforests are divided into four layers—we'll spend a day in each! So pack your bags and get ready to explore the Amazon Rainforest.

Day 1: The River

One of the best ways to get to the forest is by riding a boat down the Amazon River. This river is the second largest in the world—the perfect environment for crocodiles, fish, anacondas, and even river dolphins. During the rainy season, the river floods the forest floor, helping new plants grow.

Be careful of that caiman hiding in the water. Caimans are the largest crocodiles in the Amazon and can grow up to 20 feet long. The caiman hunts fish, birds, reptiles, and rodents. It also eats dead animals, which helps keep the river clean. The caiman's dark, scaly skin provides camouflage for hunting at night.

Day 2: The Forest Floor

Floodwaters carry soil from nearby mountains to the forest floor. This soil carries nutrients that nourish all the trees and plants. This layer of the forest is dark and cool because very little sunlight makes it through the dense trees to reach the floor. But even though the dark, cool environment makes it difficult for plants to grow, we will see a lot of moss and ferns. And since large animals don't often live in this condition, we'll mostly see insects, frogs, and lizards.

Do you notice that path of broken leaves? It was left by a colony of leaf-cutter ants. Many leaves fall from the canopy to the forest floor, where the ants chop the leaves into chunks and carry them to their underground nest. This process helps decompose leaves in the forest.

Name: _____

Day 3: The Understory

Today we're moving up into the young trees and shrubs, called the understory. Here it is humid and dark, so the trees grow large leaves in order to capture tiny bits of light. Vines creep around the trees to climb high so they can reach the light, too. These plants are home to insects, lizards, snakes, and many small creatures.

If you look closely, you may spot a jaguar. The jaguar's fur is spotted, which provides a perfect camouflage among the shrubs and trees. Because they are excellent swimmers, runners, and climbers, jaguars are great hunters. They help keep the animals they hunt from overpopulating the forest.

Day 4: The Canopy

Today we're exploring the warmest and brightest layer. In order to get the most light, the trees here grow tall and straight. Branches grow at the top of the trees and spread out to form a roof over the forest. The canopy is the noisiest layer because three-quarters of all Amazon creatures live here, including birds, lizards, and monkeys.

Do you hear the loud chattering? It's a squirrel monkey. These monkeys spend their days searching for fruits, nuts, bird eggs, and insects to munch on. They are messy eaters and often drop bits of their food. This helps feed the animals that live on the forest floor.

Day 5: The Emergent Trees

Let's explore the very top of the forest today. Here the tallest trees thrust themselves above the canopy. It's very windy, but the trees are rewarded with plenty of sunlight.

You may want to get out your binoculars to see the sun conure sitting up there. The sun conure is one of the few birds that nest in the emergent trees. Sun conures feed on fruits, berries, and seeds. They often drop seeds, which then grow into new plants.

Day 6: Going Home

This is the end of our grand exploration of the Amazon Rainforest. The rainforest is one of the most valuable ecosystems because it is home to over half the world's plant and animal species. From the tiny ants to the magnificent jaguar, each organism fills a specific need in the forest. Maybe you can return one day to explore even more.

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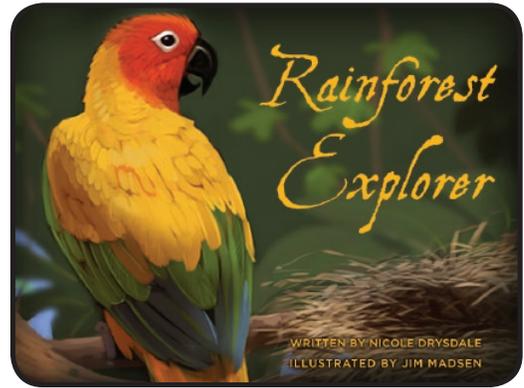
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ACCURACY: # of reading errors: _____ (Indep. = 0–14, Instr. = 15–34, Frust. = 35+)
SPEED: To calculate: $36240 \div$ _____ (Reading time in seconds) = _____ WPM

Name: _____

Rainforest Explorer

Lesson 107

Paired with *Searching—Advanced*

Discover Story Vocabulary	ecosystem, rainforest, species
Glossary Words	ecosystems, environment, nourish, canopy, decompose, overpopulating, species

Question Type	Question
Effect	<p>What would happen if animals overpopulated the forest?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">There wouldn't be enough leaf-cutter ants to decompose the leaves.There wouldn't be enough food for all of themThere wouldn't be enough water to flood the forest floor.
Inferential	<p>There are different animals in each layer of the rainforest because _____.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">animals hide in the understorymost animals live in the canopyeach layer is a separate ecosystem
Vocabulary	<p>Read this sentence from the article: "Bird nests, beehives, and a wide variety of flowers and plants are found here." What does "wide variety" mean?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">not very many kindsa lot of different kindstoo many things

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