



ANIMAL FACTS

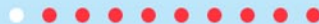
Rainforest Night



Quiet Stream



Fun Fact: Streams are essential to the rainforest's water cycle. They conduct water from rain and runoff , recharge ground water, and provide **habitat** for creatures within their stream banks like, fish and frogs, and **riparian zones** like waterbirds and insects. The sound of water moving is constant in the rainforest, in the form of raindrops, drips, gentle brooks or rapid streams. They are corridors for connecting **habitats** within a rainforest and conserving **biodiversity**. A flowing body of water may be called a stream, or rivulet, river, branch, brook, creek, or bayou. A creek is a smaller stream, and a brook shallower with water flowing low over a bed of rocks. Streams are **tributaries** to rivers and oceans which often border rainforests. The **tropical** rainforest sounds in Nature Maestro® were recorded in Costa Rica in La Selva, in Tortuguero, bordered by the Caribbean Sea, and Manuel Antonio National Park, on the Pacific Ocean coast.



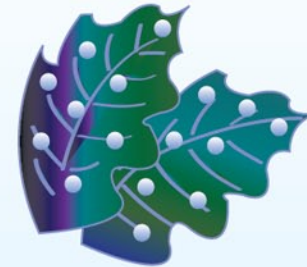


ANIMAL FACTS

Rainforest Night



Raindrops on leaves



Fun Fact: Rainforests are vital for the health of planet Earth. Trees and plants move water that has soaked into the ground up through trunks, stems, leaves, and flowers in a process called **transpiration**, which is the loss of water vapor from the plant back into the **atmosphere**, a loss similar to sweating in humans. Leaves have small openings, like pores in skin, called **stomata**. **Transpiration**, which also cools plants, occurs through the **stomata**, and is essential for keeping fresh water in Earth's water cycle. Plants in the rainforest adapt to the wet conditions so that the moisture doesn't allow fungus to grow on the leaves. Large leaves have grooves and a waxy surface to help water flow from the leaf to a [[“dip-tip,”]] like a spout on a pitcher, where water pours off. Artists often depict raindrops as teardrop shape, but lighter drops are spherical (like a ball) and heavier drops are ovoid (like an egg or bun).





ANIMAL FACTS



Rainforest Night



Bare-throated Tiger Heron



Scientific Name: *Tigrisoma mexicanum*



Fun Fact: At sunset, males of this *species* make booming sounds that undulate up their long throats.



Food: When perched on a branch or rock at water's edge, this bird stands still for a long time with its neck outstretched over the water and waits for prey. It spears prey with its bill, and eats fish, frogs, insects, and crabs.



Activity: It is primarily *crepuscular* and partially *nocturnal*. It nests high in trees on a solid platform that it constructs of sticks and vines with leaves.



Territory: They are commonly found in *tropical* rainforest lowlands near flowing water areas such as streams and rivers. Many herons are *colonial* and breed in colonies, but these birds are solitary nesters.





ANIMAL FACTS



Rainforest Night



Boa Constrictor



Scientific Name: Boa constrictor



Fun Fact: The females of this *species* are generally larger than males and can grow to be as long as 14 feet (4.2 meters.)



Food: Boa constrictors eat mice, birds, lizards, frogs, and larger animals, such as Ocelots! They wait quietly in the brush and attack when the right food comes along. They may take several days to *digest* an animal, depending on its size. After a big meal, this snake may not eat for a month, due to its slow *metabolism*.



Activity: These snakes are *nocturnal*. They burrow during the day in large holes and dense brush.



Territory: They inhabit the rainforest near rivers and streams and are good swimmers. Solitary animals, they associate with others of their *species* only to mate. They range from North to South America and the Caribbean Islands.





ANIMAL FACTS



Rainforest Night



Collared Peccary



Scientific Name: Pecari tajacu



Fun Fact: A gland on the peccary's rump secretes a musky odor that marks its territory. They identify members of their group by their musk.



Food: These animals eat a varied diet of seeds, nuts, fruit, and **vegetation**. They root in the ground for fungi, roots, and bulbs. Occasionally, they eat insects, frogs, and even snakes.



Activity: During the summer, they are more active at night when temperatures are cooler and sleep in the daytime in cool caves. During the winter, they're active in the day and sleep together for warmth at night.



Territory: Found throughout the **tropical** and **subtropical** Americas in a variety of **habitats**, they like to be near water and live in herds of 6 to 30 individuals. Males are quite **territorial**.





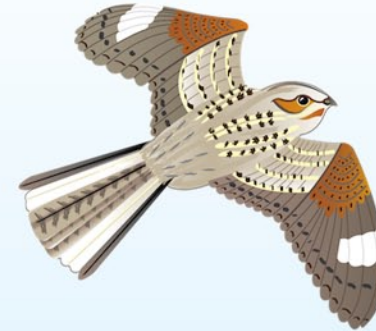
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Common Pauraque



Scientific Name: Nyctidromus albicollis



Fun Fact: The male tries to attract the female by fluttering around her and making a “weeeow weeeow” (who-are-you) sound. She responds with rapid “*whip whip whip*” sounds.



Food: ;This bird perches on a low branch, rock, or ground and circles out in flight to catch moths and bugs in the air or forages for insects on the ground.



Activity: It finds hiding places in dense **vegetation** during the day. If disturbed, it will generally run away rather than fly. It hunts at night, becoming active at dusk.



Territory: A female of this **species** lays two eggs on the ground in shade or in a scattering of leaves in open woodlands, grasslands areas, and open shaded areas around rainforests. She doesn't make a nest!





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Ocelot



Scientific Name: Leopardis pardalis



Fun Fact: The Spanish name for the this animal is “*mano gordo*,” which means literally “*fat hand*,” or loosely translated as “*big feet*.”



Food: Ocelelets are *carnivores*. They can climb and swim well. Because of this, they are able to catch and eat birds, fish, rodents, rabbits, iguana, and opossum.



Activity: This cat is *nocturnal* primarily, but also considered *crepuscular*, because it’s active at twilight. During the day, it will sleep in trees, on branches, in hollowed logs, and in heavy brush.



Territory: The female will live in an area of about one and a half miles, while the male will hunt in an area much larger, up to 10 miles (22 kilometers).





ANIMAL FACTS



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Smokey Jungle Frog



Scientific Name: *Leptodactylus pentadactylus*



Fun Fact: Compared with other frogs in the rainforest, this frog is large, about seven inches (18 centimeters) long. When threatened, it secretes a slippery, toxic mucous that can sting humans and kill other frogs. It also inflates its lungs and rises up on all four legs, making itself look larger. If grabbed, it screams in a high pitch. Its feet aren't webbed.



Food: This frog feeds on other frogs, lizards, snakes, scorpions, small birds, and **mammals**.



Activity: During the day, it burrows in leaf litter or under logs. It is **nocturnal**.



Territory: It lives in **tropical** and **subtropical** forests, swamps, rivers, marshes, and ponds.





ANIMAL FACTS



Rainforest Night



Tungara Frog



Scientific Name: Engystomops pustulosus



Fun Fact: Their Spanish name, sapito de pustulas, means “pustulated toadlet.” Mating frogs make a nest that protects the **fertilized** eggs until the tadpoles leave four days after hatching. This floating bio-foam nest inspired scientists Dr. Carlo Montemagno and Dr. David Wendell to invent a **photosynthetic** process for carbon capture and environmentally-friendly energy production that won a 2011 Earth Award. The artificial foam takes **carbon dioxide** from the air with great efficiency and contributes to a better tomorrow. All thanks to a little frog!



Food: They eat insects.



Activity: They are **nocturnal**.



Territory: They make their homes in **subtropical** and **tropical** forests, grasslands, and marshes in Central and South America. They can also live in ditches, ponds, and canals.



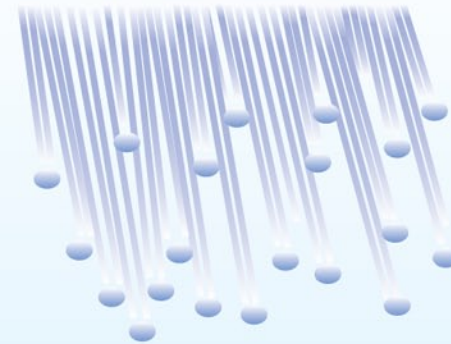


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Rainforest Night



Heavy Rain



Fun Fact: Rainfall is measured in inches. A rainforest like Tortuguero, where many Nature Maestro® sounds were recorded, would soon be flooded if water didn't absorb into the ground, run off in streams, or **evaporates** into the **atmosphere**. In one year, Tortuguero would become a lake 20 feet deep, because it receives a yearly average of 240 inches (609 centimeters) **precipitation**. Luckily, rain does absorb, flow, and evaporate. The Earth's water cycle or **hydrologic cycle** keeps the rainforest lush and our Earth habitable. When clear-cutting damages a rainforest **ecosystem**, flooding and **erosion** occur. If sufficient roots don't absorb water and hold soil, rainforests disappear. Then they can no longer contribute to Earth's water cycle. Those geographic areas lose moisture and may eventually become deserts. Keeping rainforests healthy (and wet!) is crucial to life on Earth. Small raindrops are spherical. Heavier ones are ovoid (shaped like an egg), oblate (shaped like a soggy bun or even a parachute). The sides of heavier drops droop as they fall, due to **gravity**.

