In a Tropical Rain Forest



by Katherine Scraper

Benchmark EDUCATION

Level 16 I Word Count: 336*

The Big Idea

A tropical rain forest is a home for many of Earth's plants and animals.

Skills at a Glance

Monitor-Reading:
- Read aloud to clarify

Comprehension:
- Make predictions

Phonics:
- Initial r-family blends (branches, crops, protect, trees, treetops, tropical)

Fluency:
- Read using prosody

Content Vocabulary:
- animals, canopy, emergent layer, equator, forest floor, habitat, layers, plants, trees, tropical, rain forest, sunlight, understory

Grammar, Word Study, and Language Development:
- Use prepositions (between and near)
- Use synonyms (eat/graze, parts/layers)

Sentence Patterns:
- A _____ is _____.
- _____ live in _____.

* Numerals, vocabulary words on pages 2 and 3, and words in photo captions, labels, diagrams, and charts are not included in the word count for this book.

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What lives in a tropical rain forest?



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I need to know these words.

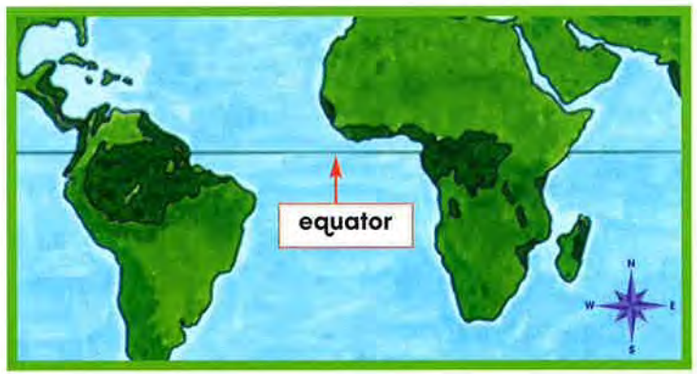
canopy



emergent layer



equator



forest floor



rain forest



understory

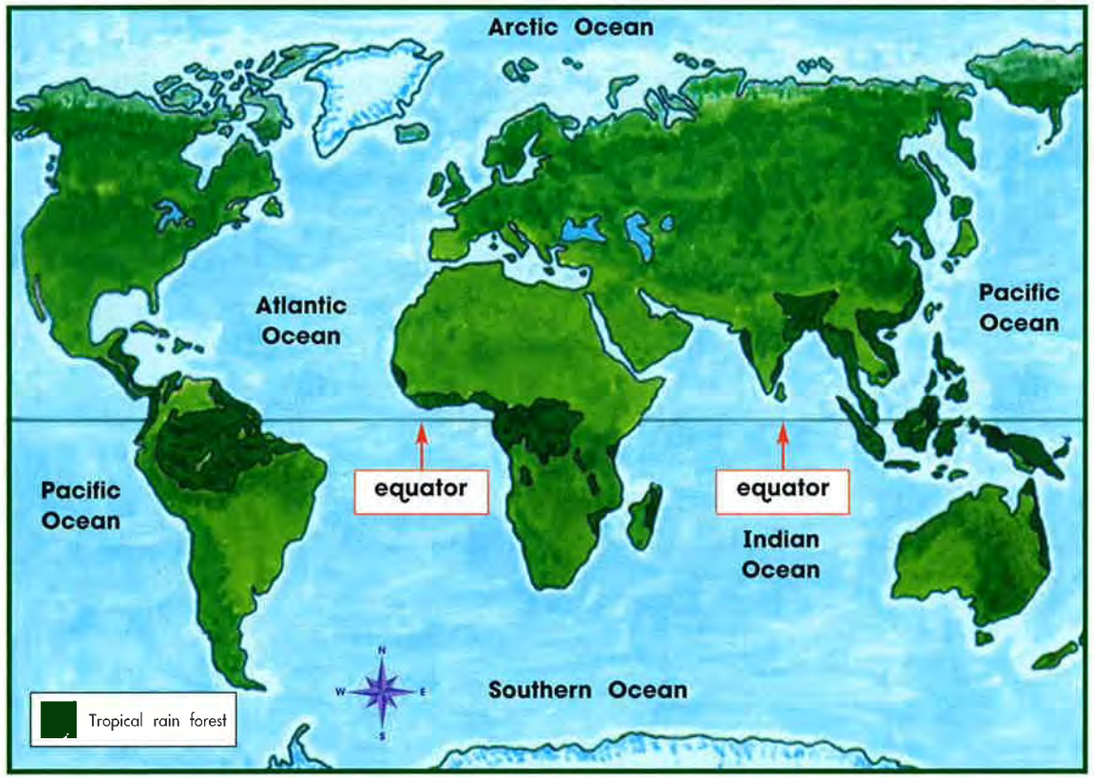


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What Is a Tropical Rain Forest?

A tropical **rain forest** is a habitat. This habitat is near the **equator**. A tropical rain forest is very warm and very wet.



A tropical rain forest has many different types of animals. A rain forest has different types of plants, too.



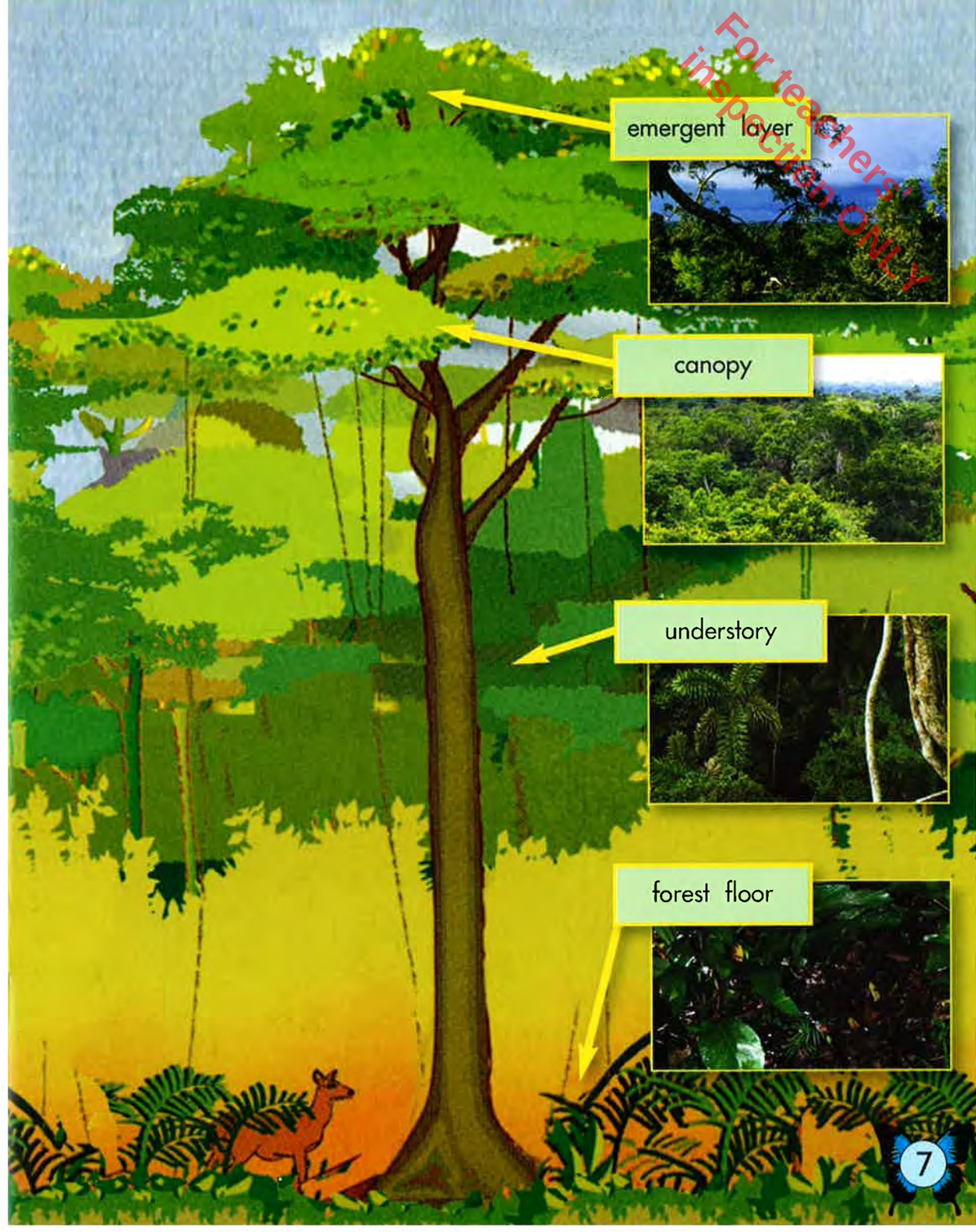
▲ A tropical rain forest can get 400 inches (1,000 centimeters) of rain each year.

A tropical rain forest has four layers, or parts. The first layer is the **forest floor**. The forest floor is dark.

The second layer is the **understory**. The understory has some sunlight.

Most treetops are in the third layer, the **canopy**. The canopy has more sunlight than the understory.

The tallest treetops are in the fourth layer, the **emergent layer**.



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What Animals Live in a Tropical Rain Forest?

Many animals live in a tropical rain forest. Different animals live in each layer. Some insects have nests on the forest floor. Some animals eat plants from the forest floor.



▲ leaf-cutting ants

▼ tapir



Some animals move between the forest floor and the understory. Other animals live mostly in the understory.



◀ A red-eyed tree frog eats insects in the understory.



▲ Jaguars rest or hide in the understory.