

Adapting to nature

Living things are adapted to their homes. Plants and animals in the U.K. are used to cold winters - they have **adapted** to the weather conditions.

How do **you** cope with the cold?

How do some British trees cope with the cold?



How do hedgehogs survive British winters?

In rainforests, the weather never gets very cold. Do you think rainforest plants and animals would be able to **survive** in the British countryside? -----

When you visit The Living Rainforest you will look at how plants and animals have adapted to the rainforest environment.

In the box, draw an animal that lives in the rainforest canopy.

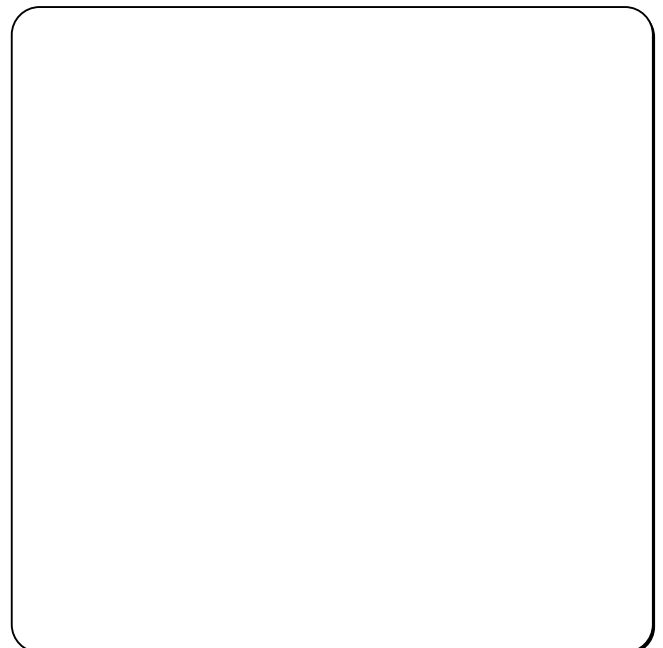
If you were an animal that lives in the rainforest canopy, what things would you need to be good at?

1 -----

2 -----

3 -----

4 -----



Here comes the sun

The forest floor is a dark, humid place as the dense canopy layer filters out most of the sunshine. Plants growing on the forest floor have adapted to the lack of sunlight in clever ways.

Climbers

Find a climbing plant and draw a picture of it in the box. Write your plant's name underneath.

Can you see how your plant is climbing?

Take a close look - does it have anything to help it stay attached to the tree as it is climbing up?

Plant name: _____



Big leaves

Find the **giant taro plant** and draw a picture of one of its leaves in the box.

Why does the giant taro have such enormous leaves?

Hitch-hikers

Some plants grow on other plants high up in the canopy. They are called **epiphytes**. Find an epiphyte and draw a picture of it (you could choose the **pitcher plant**, or a **bromeliad**, or an **orchid**...)

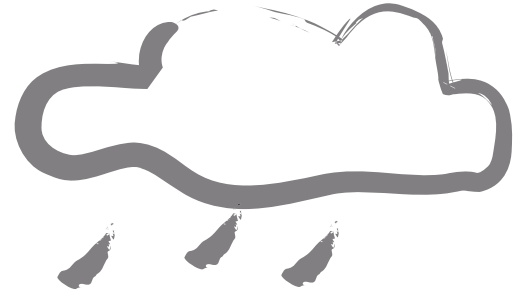
How does your plant survive in the canopy?



Too much water

It rains very hard in the rainforests.

Why is this a problem for plants?



Look around the glasshouses and find at least **three different plants** which have found ways of removing extra water from their leaves. Fill in the table below.

Name of plant	Way of removing extra water

Surviving in the jungle

Animals living in the rainforest are always competing with each other for food and space - and trying not to get eaten by something bigger! To survive, they have adapted in clever ways to suit their environment.

Try to complete the table below, naming as many of the animals as you can find in the glasshouses. Then write down the ways in which they are adapted to their environment.

Name of animal	Part of forest it lives in	Adaptation

Poison dart frog

Colour the poison dart frog with bright colours.



Why are these frogs so brightly coloured?

New animal discovered!

Can you be as clever as nature? The animals you saw at The Living Rainforest had adapted in many ways to the hot, wet environment. Now it is your turn to design an animal with special adaptations to cope with the conditions in a rainforest. Think about the following:

1. Which part of the forest does your animal live in?
2. What type of animal is it (bird, insect, reptile, mammal, fish...)?
3. What special features does it have?
4. How do these help it to survive?

Now **draw** and **label** a picture of your animal.

