

RainForest Scavenger Hunt Answers: Grades 4-6

1. Almost every animal in the rainforest depends on trees. Marmosets and tamarins and orangutans live in trees. Without trees, they would have no home. Orangutans, sloths, bats, capybaras, and langurs are herbivores: they need to eat plants to survive. If plants, fruit, and trees are destroyed, they will have no food. Humans need trees, too. Trees create the oxygen that we need to breathe. Humans eat the fruit of many trees, including bananas, avocados, and mangos.
2. Many poisonous animals are brightly colored to warn other animals to stay away. Predators are scared away by the bright colors, because they know it means danger. These animals do not need camouflage because predators are unlikely to try and hunt them.
3. Frogs have slicker, smoother, slimier skin than toads. They are almost always found in or around water. They also tend to have longer back legs and can jump very high. Toads have thicker, rougher, drier skin and can survive further from water. They tend to be wider and have shorter back legs and hop rather than jump.
4. Lower populations of pollinators could impact the population of pollinating trees and plants. If there are no bats to transfer the pollen to new locations, new trees and plants will not grow. This is a great example of the connectivity between organisms in an ecosystem. Each organism relies on the other to survive.
5. Did you identify each turtle species?
6. Did you find them all?
7. Be a smart shopper. If you are looking for a pet, research the store or seller you are considering purchasing from. Ask where the seller sources its animals. Are they captive-bred, or are they taken from the wild? Research the pet you are interested in; wild animals do not make good pets. Domesticated animals make the best pets, as they are tame and friendly. Remember that some animals are illegal to own. Also, do not promote wild pets by “liking” or sharing videos of wild pets online.
8. Monkeys usually, but not always, have tails; apes do not have tails. Monkeys are almost always found in trees; apes live both in trees and on the ground. Monkeys are generally smaller overall and have smaller brains compared to apes. Apes often walk on their back feet while monkeys almost always walk on all four feet.
9. Otters have long, narrow bodies that make them the perfect shape for diving and swimming. Their fur is water-resistant so they do not get weighed down by wet fur. Webbed feet help them to paddle more efficiently. If you get a good look, you can see that they also can close their ears and noses will underwater to avoid getting water in them.
10. It is important to be a smart shopper. Read labels on the food, hair products, and cleaning products you buy. Do they contain palm oil? Some palm oil is designated “sustainably harvested” which means that the palm oil used did not come from cleared rainforests. If there is no sustainable icon, the product you are buying could be contributing to orangutan extinction.