Rain Forests
Around the World

Genre: Nonfiction
Build Background: Tropical Rainforest Climate, Rainforest Locations, Rainforest Plants and Animals
Access Content: Labels, Definitions in Context
Extend Language: Adjectives ending in -ing

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**Question of the Week**
What can we observe in different environments?

**Key Comprehension Skill**
Cause and Effect

**Concept Words**
tropical  Equator  repeat
dangerous  venom  shores  depend

**Learning Goals:**
- Our world has different environments.
- Tropical rainforests are near the Equator.
- Tropical rainforests are important to plants, animals, and people.
You are walking through a thick forest. It is very hot. It won’t stop raining. Everything is wet—even the air. You hear singing birds and other animals. When you look up, you can see only the tops of tall trees. Where are you?

You are in a tropical rain forest!

**Where Are Tropical Rain Forests?**

Tropical rain forests are near the Equator. The Equator is a line around Earth. We cannot see this line. In this area, the weather is hot and wet.

Rain forests cover about six percent of Earth. Millions of plants and animals live in rain forests. You can find different kinds in each area.
Rain Forests in South America

The Amazon is the biggest rain forest in the world. It is full of insects!

Giant centipedes (SEN tuh peeds) live there. A centipede is a long bug with many legs. This centipede is very long. It can grow as long as your arm. Giant centipedes eat mice, frogs, and birds.

Rain Forests in Africa

In African rain forests, parrots live in the trees. The African grey parrot is very smart. It can repeat almost any sound it hears.

Snakes live in trees too. The green mamba snake has scales to help it hold the branches. It will attack when it is in danger. Its venom is very dangerous.

- repeat: to say again
- venom: poison that animals use to attack other animals
Rain Forests in Southeast Asia

In Southeast Asia, mangrove trees grow on shores. The tall roots keep the trees straight.

The mudskipper is a fish that lives around the mangroves. It is the only fish that lives on water and on land. Some can even climb trees!

shores: where land meets the ocean

Mangrove trees have tall roots.

Rain Forests in Australia

In Australia, the tree kangaroo jumps from tree to tree. It looks like a bear. Tree kangaroos have short back legs and strong front arms. They climb and hop through the trees.

A tree kangaroo can jump down from more than 30 feet.
Over half of all plants and animals live in rain forests. The plants and animals depend on each other to survive. People depend on rain forests too. We use medicines made from their plants. We eat food from rain forests, like bananas, cocoa, and nuts.

Scientists learn new rain forest secrets every day. What do you think they will learn next?

depend: need something in order to survive