

English Project

Tropical Rainforests



More of a Challenge
Mrs Childs—April 2020

How to Use this Booklet

Dear Students

I hope everyone is doing well. I also hope you will find this work interesting. All of it is to do with tropical rainforests.

- Try to do the activities in order
- Do what you can, but do not worry if you get stuck. Just move on to the next thing.
- If it is too hard, try the work in the booklet called *English Rainforest Project – middle range*.

Good luck, and thank you for your hard work.

Mrs Childs



What you will learn about

- What a tropical rainforest is
- Where they are found
- Plants and trees of the tropical rainforest
- People of the tropical rainforest
- Explorers of the tropical rainforest.



What is a tropical rainforest?



Good question! Your job is to find out. Use the internet to find 10 facts about the rain forest. List your answers below. Remember to use full sentences please.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

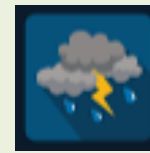
Where are the Tropical Rainforests?

Where are the rainforests? Shade the areas on the world map to show where the tropical rainforests can be found. You will need to use the internet to do this research.





Climate



In an average year, more than 1800 millimetres (70 inches) of rain will fall in a tropical rainforest. The temperature is high all year around, usually between 26 and 28 degrees celsius. This creates a very humid climate.

The reason for this climate is to do with where tropical rainforests are found. Most rainforests are located on the Equator or close to it. At the Equator the sun's rays are more concentrated per square metre than if you travel towards either the North or South Pole. High temperatures at the Equator create rising pockets of air. The rising air cools rapidly and begins to condense, creating towering, tall storm clouds and rain. These clouds are called cumulonimbus and responsible for thunder and lightning which is common in tropical rain forests.

Answer these questions about the text. Please use full sentences in your answers:

1. What does the word humid mean? _____

2. Where are most tropical rainforests found? _____

3. What is the name for the rain clouds which are responsible for thunder and lightning?

Carnivorous Plants



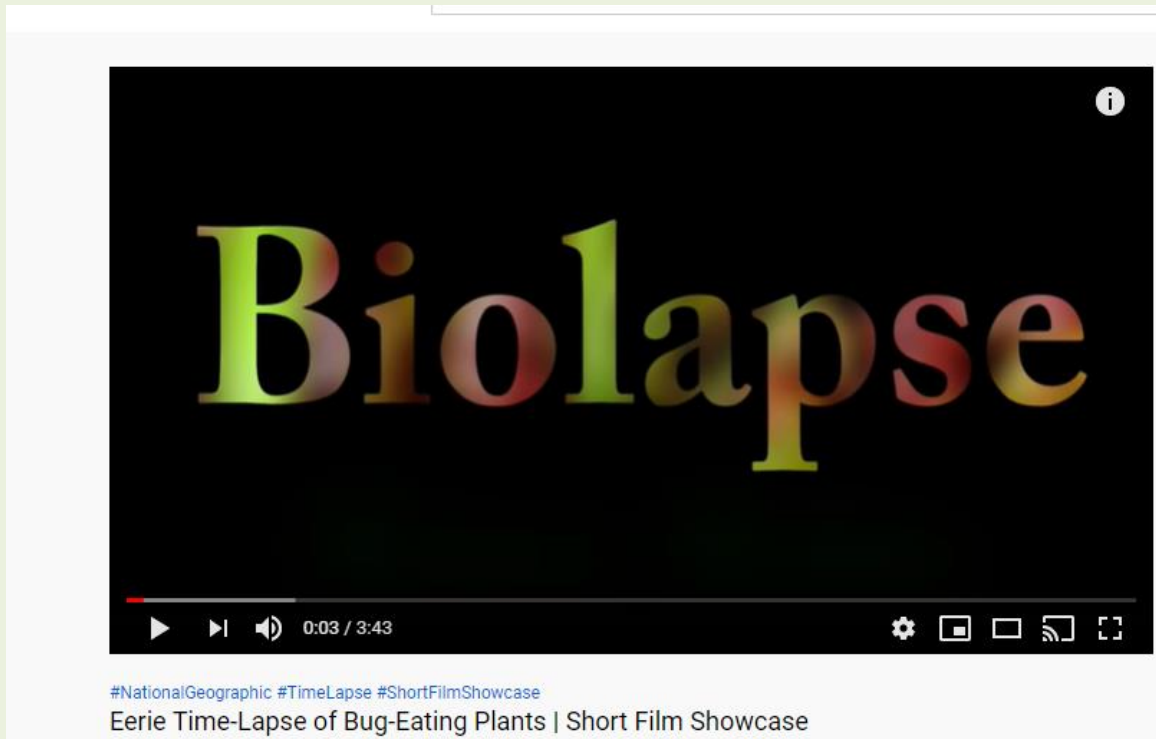
If you don't like insects, don't do this one!



Look up the word **carnivorous**, using a dictionary.

The soil in the rainforest is very poor. That means that plants cannot get all of the nutrients they need. Some have developed a very clever way of getting them! They eat insects. Watch the video.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UoL1dg3SzOI>



Plants & Trees



These giant lily pads are strong enough to support a child's weight!

Source of medicines

One quarter of our medicines come from rainforest plants and it is thought that there are many more potential medicines that could come from rainforest plants that have yet to be identified.

Unique

80% of the plants in the rainforest are unique to the rainforest.



Some trees grow so tall that they have special 'buttress roots' to hold them up.

Medicines from the Rain Forest

Were you surprised that so many medicines come from the rain forest?

The most well known is **Quinine**. Quinine was the first effective medicine used to treat malaria. It was originally discovered by the Quechua tribe, who mixed the ground bark of cinchona trees with sweetened water to prevent shivering in cold weather, and the mix of bark and water became known as tonic.



Cinchona tree bark

Animals and Birds

The tropical rainforest has many kinds of creatures. Here are four examples to get you thinking.

Toucan



Poison Dart Frog



Squirrel Monkey



Orangutan

Task:

Choose a rain forest creature that you are interested in.

Write at least three paragraphs about the creature. Think about what it can do, what it eats and anything that makes it unique.

Do not copy text from the internet – you must put it into your own words.

People of the Amazon Rain Forest



Task

Find out some more about the people of the Amazon rainforest. They are sometimes known as tribes of the Amazon. Write at least two paragraphs. You could include some of the amazing things they are doing to protect the rain forest.

The Amazon Rain Forest – An Explorer

Percy Harrison Fawcett

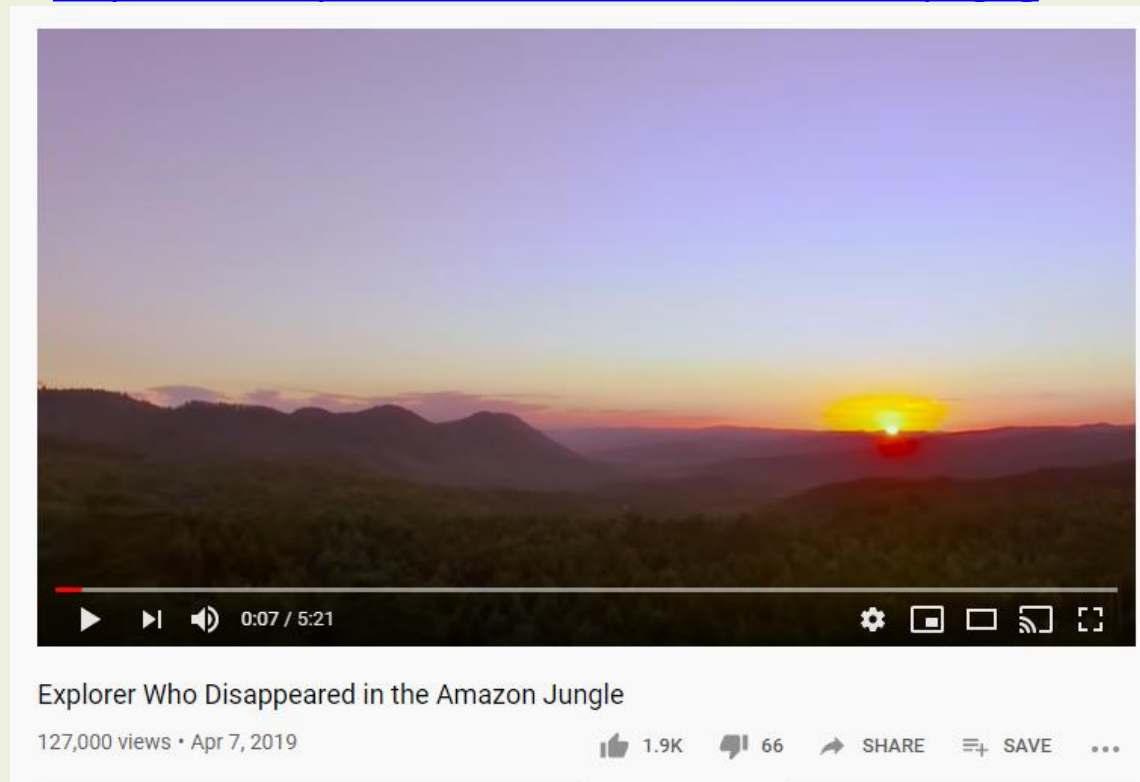
Some say that Fawcett is the ‘real’ Indiana Jones



Introductory video

Watch this video about Fawcett.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MoTe-ZpSg5g>



Read about Fawcett on the next page.

Percy Harrison Fawcett

Fawcett was a British army officer, archaeologist and explorer. After leaving the army, he made several trips to the Amazon river between 1906 and 1925. He built good relationships with local tribes people as he was always polite and respectful. He also gave them gifts.

He sometimes claimed to have seen very strange animals and not everyone believed him. These included a 62-foot anaconda, a small cat like dog, and a giant spider that poisoned locals. The two-nosed dog he claimed to have seen, however, is proven to exist, although it is very rare. It is the Double nosed Andean tiger hound.

Fawcett made his final trip in 1925, taking along his eldest son, Jack and his friend, Raleigh. He was hunting for a lost ancient city which he called 'Z' somewhere in Brazil. He wanted to be the first to discover it. He decided they could live off the jungle so only took basic supplies.

In May 1925 Fawcett sent a letter to his wife saying they were about to enter uncharted territories of the Amazon. They were never seen or heard from again. Some say they were murdered by local tribesmen. They may also have died from disease or injury. Some claim that Fawcett planned his own disappearance. Around 100 men have since died trying to find Fawcett's remains.



Check your understanding

Please answer the questions about the text. Remember to use full sentences please.

1. What year was Fawcett's last expedition to the Amazon?

2. List three strange animals he claimed to have seen?

3. Who did he take with him on his last trip?

4. Who was the last person to hear from him?

5. How many men have died trying to find his remains?



Did Fawcett really die?

Headlines from the 1930s claim that Fawcett is still alive in the jungle.

**NEW EVIDENCE FOUND SHOWS
SEEKER OF GARDEN OF EDEN
MAY BE ALIVE IN JUNGLES**

Buenos Aires, March 19.—(AP)—**Hope that Col. P. H. Fawcett, British explorer who has been missing in the Brazilian jungles for seven**

Rio de Janeiro, this week he talked with Col. Fawcett last Oct. 18. Col. Fawcett went into the jungles seven years ago to hunt traces

POPULAR SCIENCE MONTHLY

March, 1928

Is Lost Explorer Now Jungle God?

By FRANCIS GOW SMITH



Today, Commander George M. Dyott, explorer and lecturer, has set forth on an even more daring mission—to wring from the jungles of Brazil some clue to the mysterious fate of the vanished British war veteran, Lieut. Col. P. H. Fawcett, D.S.O.

After a life dedicated chiefly to South American exploration—as Livingstone's was dedicated to discoveries in Africa—Col. Fawcett undertook, three years ago, to survey and map the least-known fastnesses of Matto Grosso. At the age of fifty-eight, accompanied only by his son Jack and one other white com-

pany nothing but a son and a three years ago

Brazil.—Freed from captivity as

James Gordon Bennett of the New York Herald to find Dr. Livingstone, who in 1865 had set out to discover the long-sought sources of the Nile and for nearly seven years had not been heard of.

Stanley, leading 800 men inland from Zanzibar through the densest of African jungles, soon began to get word from natives of a strange, bearded white man lying ill and helpless at the slave-trading town of Ujiji, on Lake Tanganyika. And there, on November 10, 1871, Stanley, exhausted by his eight months of hardship, had no words to greet the venerable missionary but these: "Dr. Livingstone,

**TELLS OF FINDING BIG
EXPLORER IN JUNGLES**

**Strange Fate of Colonel Fawcett Revealed When Big
Game Hunter Finds Him as Captive of Indians**

No one really knows
the answer!

Writing Fawcett's letter to his wife

We do not have a copy of Fawcett's final letter to his wife. So your job is to write one.

We know that

- He was excited to be on the final stages of the journey to find the lost city of 'Z'
- He was still in good health
- He was travelling with his son, Jack, and his friend, Raleigh.



Instructions for writing your letter

- Remember you are writing to someone you love
- Use a letter lay-out
- Your wife will have never been to a jungle, so remember to use lots of adjectives to describe the things you have **seen** and **heard** in the jungle
- Try to use adverbs too (words that give more information about a verb – like quickly, slowly, carefully)
- Describe what you hope to find at the lost city
- Tell her if there is anything you are worried about
- Remember you are also travelling with your son, Jack. She might want to know how he is too.
- You might also include information about Raleigh, so that your wife can pass it on to Raleigh's family.



Jack

Write Your Letter!

Use a separate piece of paper.

Please:

- Check your spellings
- Don't forget your full stops and your capital letters
- Use paragraphs.



If you have time and you are feeling creative, you could try to make your letter look old by painting the paper brown first.

Conclusion

Well done, I hope you have found this interesting. If you would like to find out more about the tropical rainforests, or about Fawcett, you can look at these websites:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zx8n39q/revision/1>

http://www.bbc.co.uk/devon/content/articles/2007/07/13/famous_percy_harrison_fawcett_feature.shtml

