

CANOPY

Canopy trees grow about 60 to 150 feet tall. They form a leafy “roof” over the forest. More species live at the top of the bright canopy than in any other layer.

With its fluffy fur, the *silky anteater* hides from predators among the woolly seed pods of the silk cotton tree.



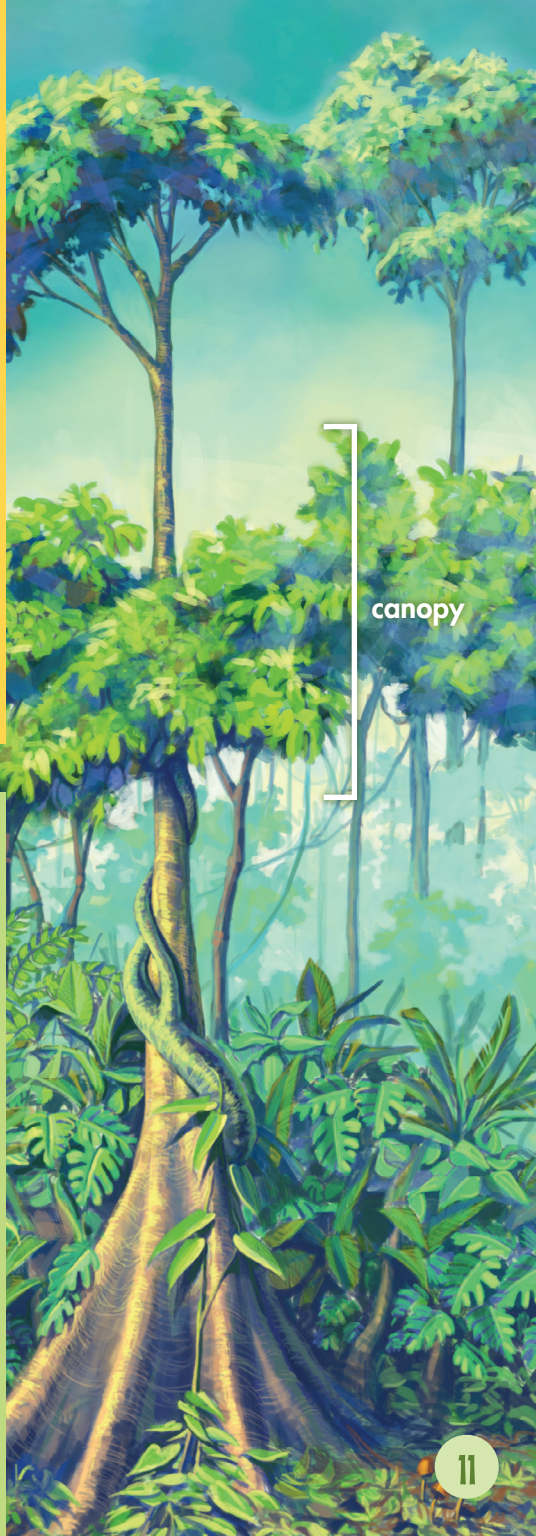
When a *three-toed sloth* hangs around the rainforest, it actually *hangs* around the rainforest! Sloths spend just about their whole lives hanging upside down in trees. Their long, curved claws make handy hooks for branches. Sloths eat, sleep, and even give birth high in the trees.





Strawberry poison frogs live on the forest floor, but females climb up into the rainforest canopy to lay their eggs. Afterwards, Dad visits with water to help keep the eggs moist. Once the eggs hatch, Mom comes back to give the tadpoles a ride to a pool of water where they can grow.

The *Toco toucan* uses its big, colorful bill to pluck fruits from branches. Then it tips its head back, and the fruit drops down its throat. That big bill is lighter than it looks—it's made of the same stuff your hair and fingernails are made of.



EMERGENT LAYER

Trees in the emergent layer poke up out of the canopy, looking like giant umbrellas. They grow up to 250 feet above the forest floor. To keep from drying out in the strong sun and wind at this level, emergent trees have thick, waxy leaves.

This *howler monkey* is doing just what his name says: belting out his loud call, which echoes through the rainforest! Only males howl. They do it to tell other howlers to keep out of their troop's territory. A special bone in a howler's throat helps make the calls super loud—loud enough to be heard three miles away!



At mating time, a male *morpho butterfly* joins other males to fly above the rainforest trees. If the males are lucky, females will be attracted to their wings **shimmering** in the sunlight.

Look out, monkeys and sloths! This young *harpy eagle* will grow up to be one of the rainforest's super predators. An adult harpy is big, with a wingspan wider than a person is tall. And it's fast! A harpy can dive down on prey at up to 50 miles per hour and then snatch it up with its long, sharp talons.



emergent
layer

NOW YOU KNOW WHY
A RAINFOREST IS ONE OF
THE MOST SPECIAL PLACES
IN THE WORLD!