

# The Tropical Rainforest Plant and Animal Adaptations

Plants and animals living in the Tropical Rainforest must be able to adapt to the year round humidity and constant warm, humid and wet weather. The tropical rainforest contains the most species of plant and animal life, therefore there is immense competition for food and sunlight.

## Plant Adaptations in the Tropical Rainforest Biome

The bark on the rainforest trees is thin which prevents other plants from growing on them and supports evaporation from the excess humidity. The leaves on most of the plants have what is called drip tips which help plants shed the excess moisture from the rainfall. The trees have long, very straight trunks and don't branch out until they reach the canopy where sunlight can be found. Leaves of plants and trees are very large to help them absorb as much of the sunlight as is possible. Some of the tropical Rainforest plants are actually carnivorous, which means they eat meat. They have an opening filled with nectar that will attract insects, such as ants and flies. Many flowering plants will grow on trees in order to get sunshine (epiphytes).

## Examples of Plants found in the Tropical Rainforest:

The tropical rainforest contains more species of plants than any other biome. Orchids, Philodendrons, Ferns, Bromeliads, Kapok Trees, Banana Trees, Rubber Trees, Bamboo, Trees, Cassava Trees, Avocado Trees.

## Animal Adaptations in the Tropical Rainforest Biome

Animals come in various colors which act as a camouflage to protect them from their predators. Many of the animals are able to move freely among the many trees which act as both food and shelter for them. Quite a few of the tropical rainforest animals are able to swim and cope with a wet and swamp like environment. Some animals (bats) are nocturnal which help them avoid the warmer daytime temperatures. Many of the birds have larger and stronger beaks. Some animals are poisonous which protect them from their predators. Due to the competition for food with so many animals, some animals are very specialized and only eat one type of plant or insect.

## Examples of Animals found in the Tropical Rainforest:

The tropical rainforest contains more species of animals than any other biome and insects make up the largest group of animals. Anacondas, Monkeys, Toucans, Macaws, Herons, Cougars, Pumas, Orangutans, Gorillas, Sloths, Parrots and Frogs.