Edible Forests

All living things, humans, animals and plants, need food to give them energy to grow, move and repair their body when it is needed. What we eat to get that energy depends on who we are and our diet. The three main diet types in animals are Herbivorous, Omnivorous and Carnivorous.

Animal Diets

A **Herbivore** is an animal that **only eats** ……. Draw a picture of one of our herbivores in the rainforest and write down what it likes to eat.

Name: _____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

An **Omnivore** is an animal that eats ……., ……., **algae and fungi**. Draw a picture of one of our omnivores in the rainforest and write down what it likes to eat.

Name: _____

_____

_____

_____

_____

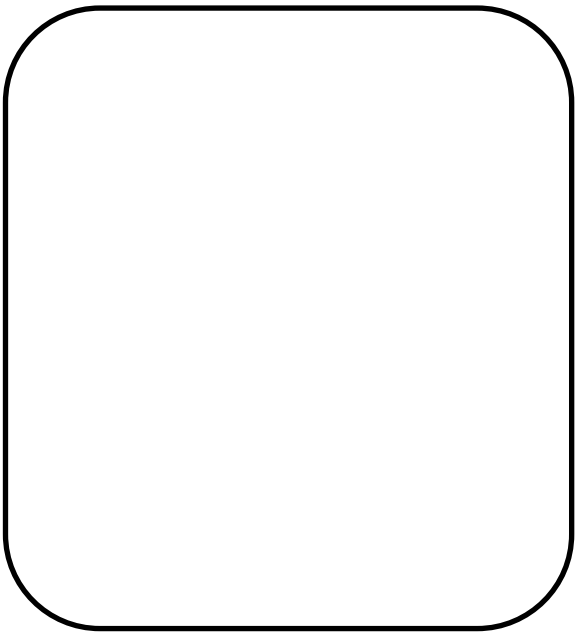
_____

_____

_____

_____

A **Carnivore** is an animal that mainly or only **eats …….** Draw a picture of one of our carnivores in the rainforest and write down what it likes to eat.



Name: _____

_____

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_____

How do plants get their energy?

Plants don't eat food in the same way that humans and animals do. Green plants make their own food, glucose, through a special process called **Photosynthesis**. For photosynthesis to work, plants need carbon dioxide, water and light energy. Plants get carbon dioxide from the air through their leaves and water from the ground through their roots; light energy comes from the sun. They then turn this into glucose and oxygen. This is the photosynthesis equation: **Carbon dioxide + water (+ light energy) → glucose + oxygen.** Can you draw a labelled picture of photosynthesis happening?

Some of our plants have another clever trick to help them get the nutrients they need to grow. How do carnivorous plants catch insects? Can you find an example in the rainforest and draw it below?

Plant name: _____

How it catches its food:

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Food Chains and Food Webs

All the plants and animals in the rainforest need energy to grow. The plants get their energy from the sun, the herbivores eat the plants for energy and carnivores get their energy by eating other animals. This transfer of energy is called a Food Chain. Because there are lots of species in the rainforest, food chains can link together and form a Food Web.

Can you match up the different levels in a food chain with their correct definition?

Producer	An animal that is hunted and eaten by other animals.
Prey	An animal that kills and eats other animals, they could be active hunters or use an ambush strategy.
Predator	Usually the biggest carnivore in an area, they rarely have any natural predators as adults.
Top Predator	Uses photosynthesis to make the glucose and oxygen it needs to grow.

Can you find an example of each level in the rainforest?

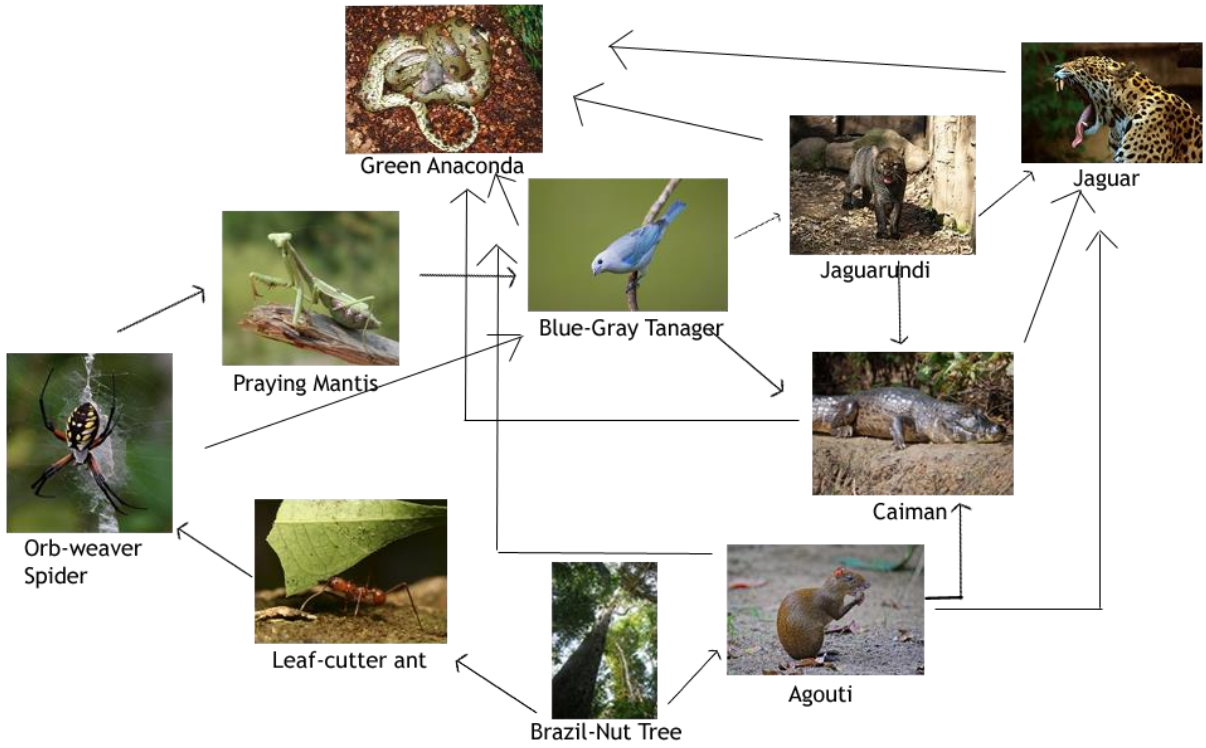
Producer: _____

Prey:_____

Predator:_____

Top Predator:_____

Below is an example of a food web that could exist in a rainforest habitat. The arrows show the transfer of energy and point to the plant or animal that is consuming (taking in) the energy.



Using the food web above, give 3 examples of different **food chains**. One has been done for you, don't forget the arrows!

Producer	Prey	Predator	Top Predator
Brazil-Nut Tree →	Agouti →	Jaguar →	Green Anaconda

1.

2.

3.

What would happen if there was a change to the food web?

Use the words from the box below to fill in the blanks and find out why a food web is so delicate! Each word is only used once.

The Brazil nut tree is a **P**_____, without it the **H**_____ that feed on it would have no **F**_____. They would eventually starve and **D**_____ unless they could move to another **H**_____ or find another food source.

All the other animals in the **F**_____W_____ would be at risk too, because their food supplies would have died out. The populations of **P** _____ such as the Caiman, would fall as the population of their **P**_____, like the Agouti fell.

If a top predator like the **G**_____ **A**_____ were reduced, perhaps as a result of hunting by I_____ P_____ then the numbers of its prey would **I**_____ as there would be less predators to eat them. Eventually a **B**_____ would be reached however, this can take a very long time, several years in some cases.

Herbivores	Balance	Die	Habitat	Food
Food Web	Prey	Green Anaconda		
Producer	Predators	Increase	Indigenous People	

Food chains can be seriously affected by the introduction of non-native species, and also by interactions with humans.

In what ways might a human affect the food chain? Tick all those which you think apply:

- ☐ Hunting animals for food
- ☐ Removing / killing animals out of fear
- ☐ Destruction of suitable habitat
- ☐ Removing trees for timber

Where do you think a human would fit into the food web?

_____

Human Diets

Around 80% of the foods we eat originate from the rainforest and many are available to buy in the UK. You might even have some in your lunchboxes!

Can you list 6 foods you have found in the rainforest that you have seen in your cupboards at home or in the supermarkets?

1. 4.

2. 5.

3. 6.

People living in the rainforest don't buy there foods from the supermarket though, they have to catch or grow it themselves!

Tribes living in the Amazon rainforest use one of our animals to help them hunt and catch their food. Can you find the animal and draw it in the box below?

Name:_____

How does it help the hunters?

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Many of the animals in the rainforest are edible; can you find 4 animals which might be eaten by people living in the rainforest?

1.

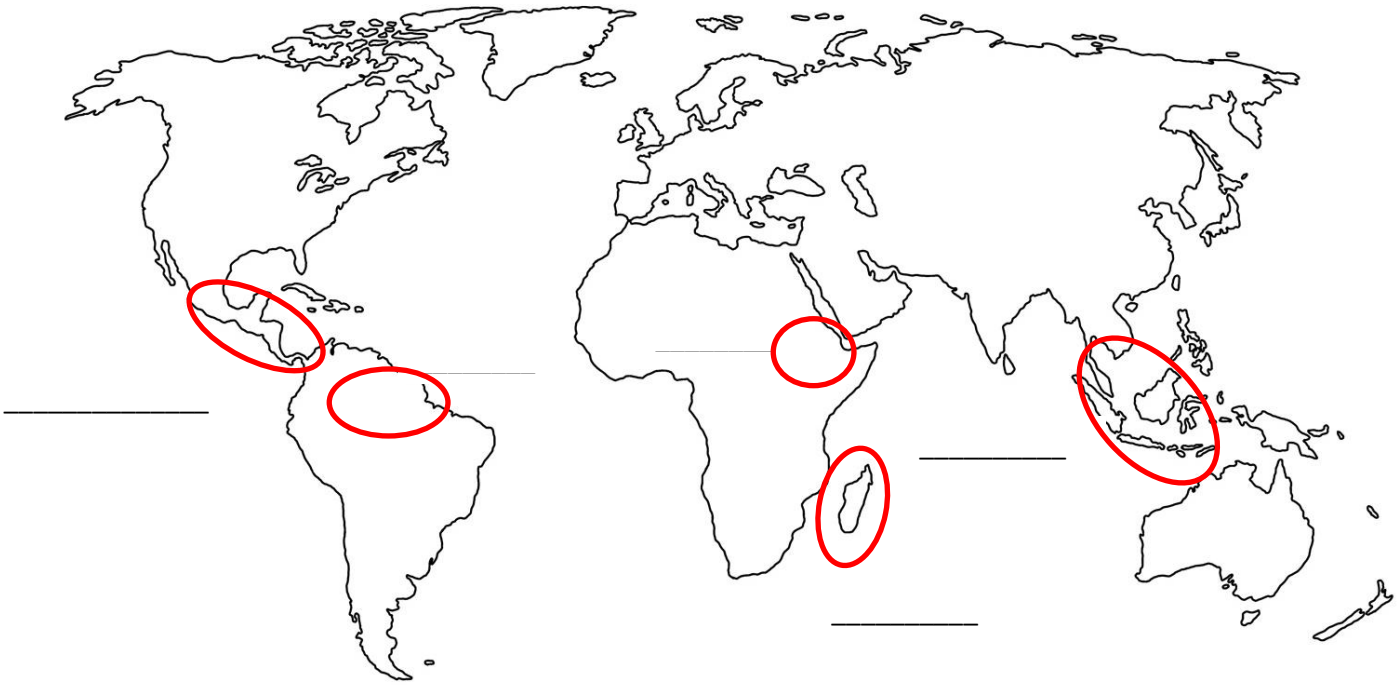
2.

3.

4.

Rainforest Food Map

Can you find the foods below growing in the rainforest and label where they grow on the map



Avocado **Cocoa** **Vanilla** **Coffee** **Bananas**

Food Groups

Eating a balanced diet is important to keep us healthy. That means getting energy from 4 different food groups

Proteins- Help to repair our bodies and are found in meat, fish, dairy products, eggs and nuts.
Carbohydrates- Provide energy and are found in cereals such as wheat and oats and vegetables such as potatoes.
Fats - Can be stored by our bodies to provide energy and can be found in meat, fish, nuts and vegetable oils.
Vitamins and minerals - Help to build strong teeth and bones, help our cells function to keep us healthy and are mainly found in fruits and vegetables.

After a day exploring the rainforest you must be very hungry!
Can you create a menu from the plants and animals you have learned about in the rainforest and make sure it contains all 4 of the key food groups listed above?

Meal	Plant or Animal	Food Group
Starter		
Main Course		
Pudding		

Keeping hydrated is also an important of a healthy diet and being in the rainforest is thirsty work! Can you find 3 plants that would be useful to make tasty drinks when mixed with water?

1.

2.

3.