

GEOGRAPHY CORNER



Rainforests



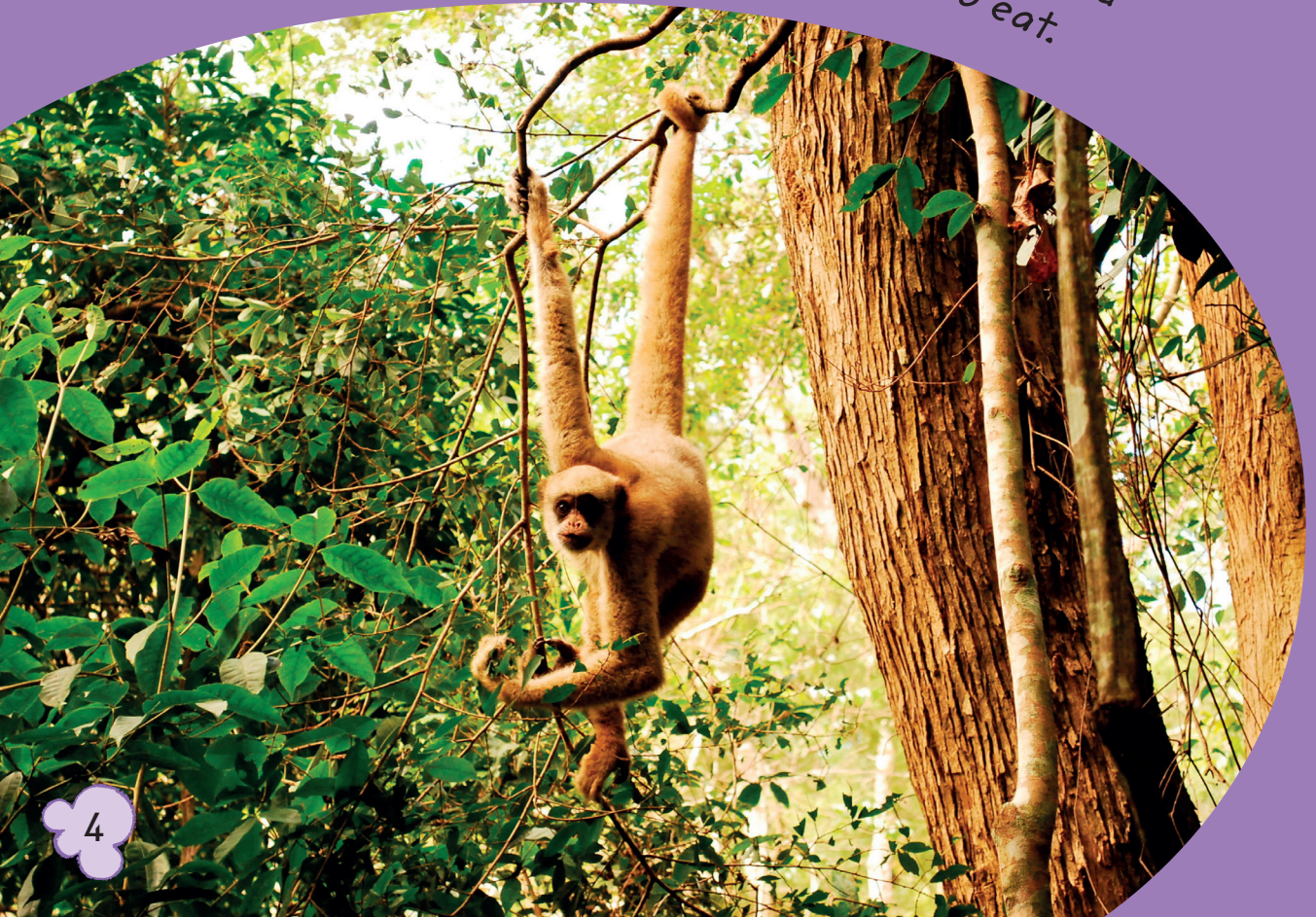
Ruth Thomson



What is a rainforest?

Rainforests grow where the sun is hot and it rains hard every day of the year. Trees grow tall and close together in this warm, wet climate.

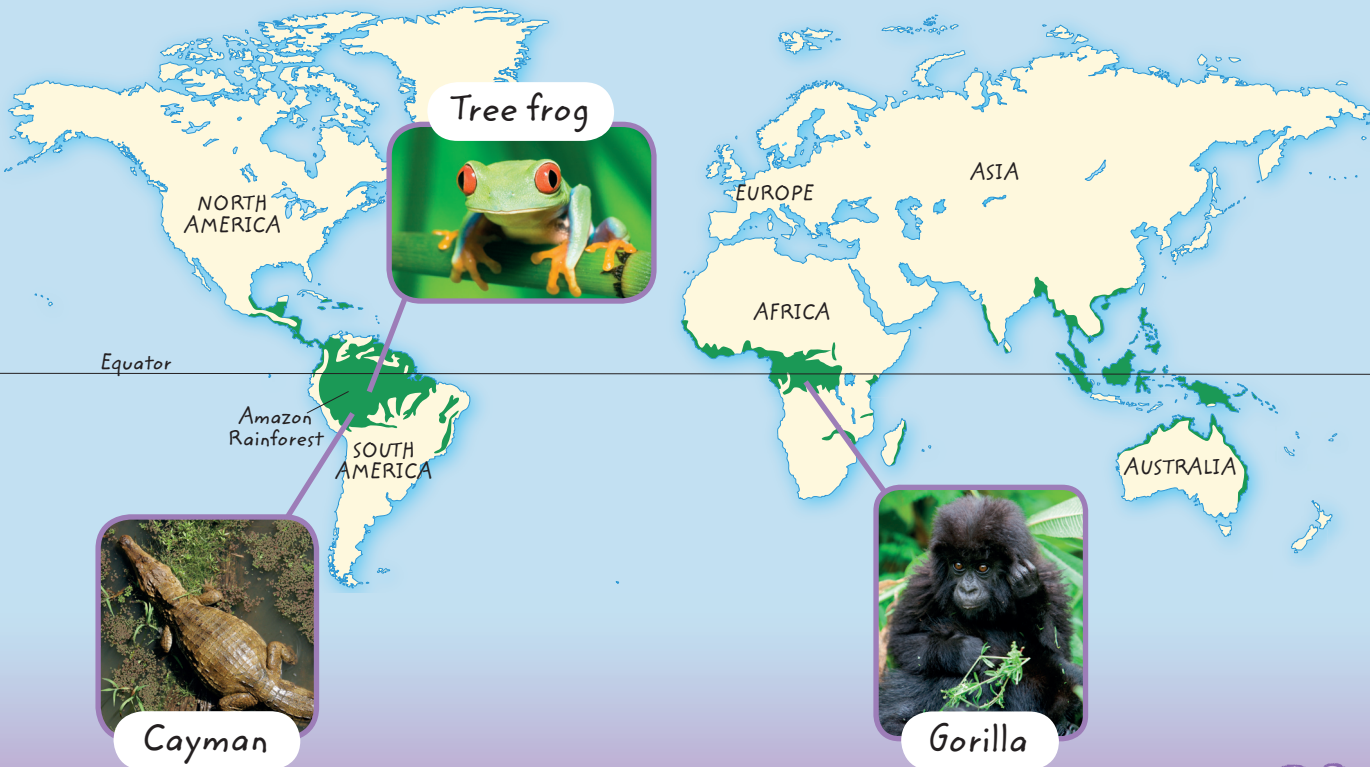
There are always plenty of fruits, seeds, nuts and leaves for monkeys and other animals to eat.



Rainforests are found only near the Equator. The Equator is the line on a world map that marks the middle of the Earth.

There are different sorts of plants and animals in the rainforests of each continent.

The Amazon rainforest is the biggest rainforest in the world.





The forest floor

The forest floor is dark and smelly. Rotting leaves and tree trunks cover the earth.

Ferns and fungi both grow on the shady forest floor.

Many rainforest plants are unique. They may be useful for medicines.



Ants, beetles and creepy crawlies live under the leaves and in the rotten wood. Wild pigs and deer feed on fallen fruits, seeds and leaves.

Weaver ant



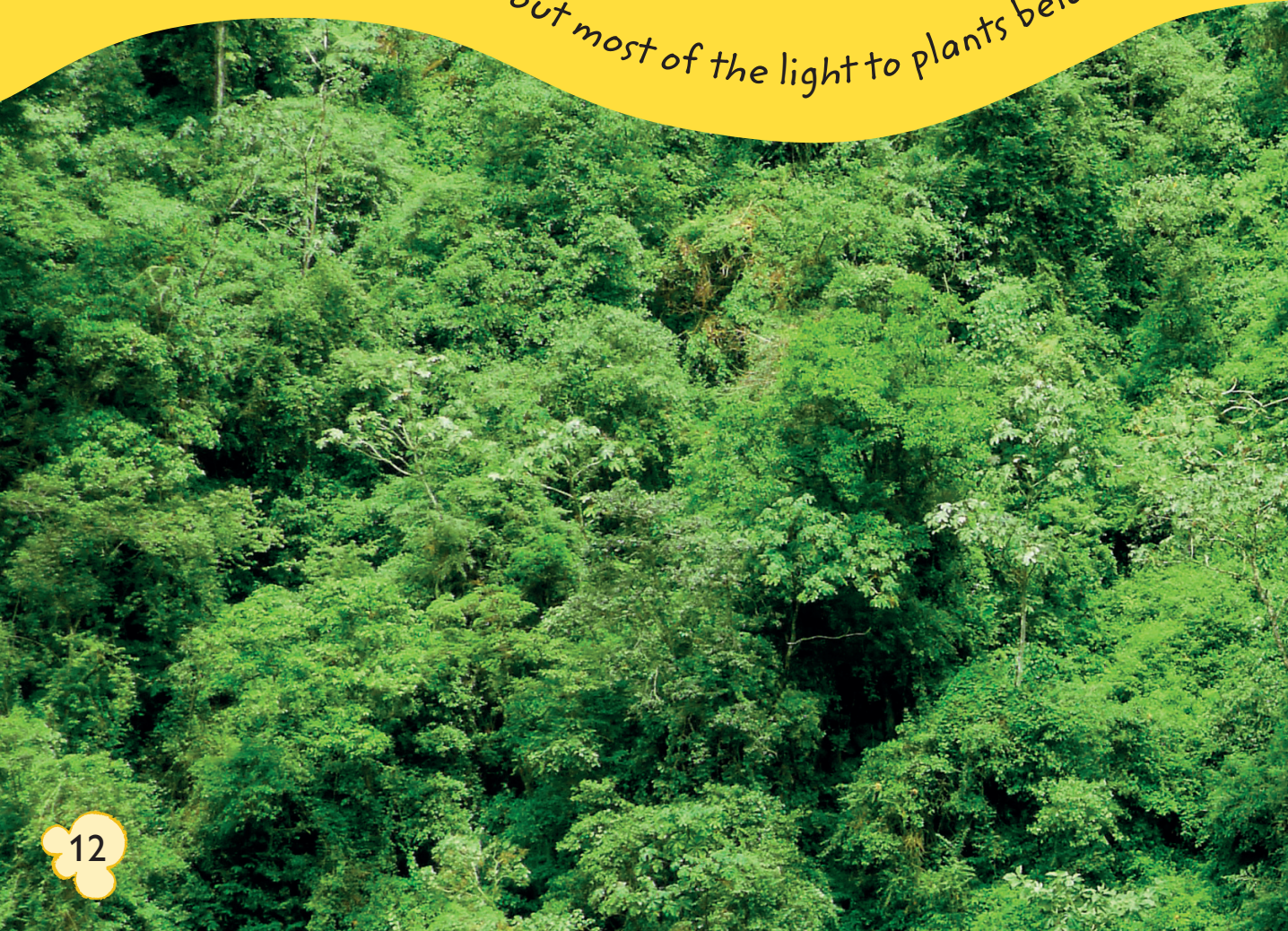
Goliath bird-eating spider



The canopy

Many trees grow tall to reach sunlight. Their long trunks have only leafy branches at the top. The treetops touch to form a roof, called a canopy, over the forest.

The canopy keeps out most of the light to plants below.

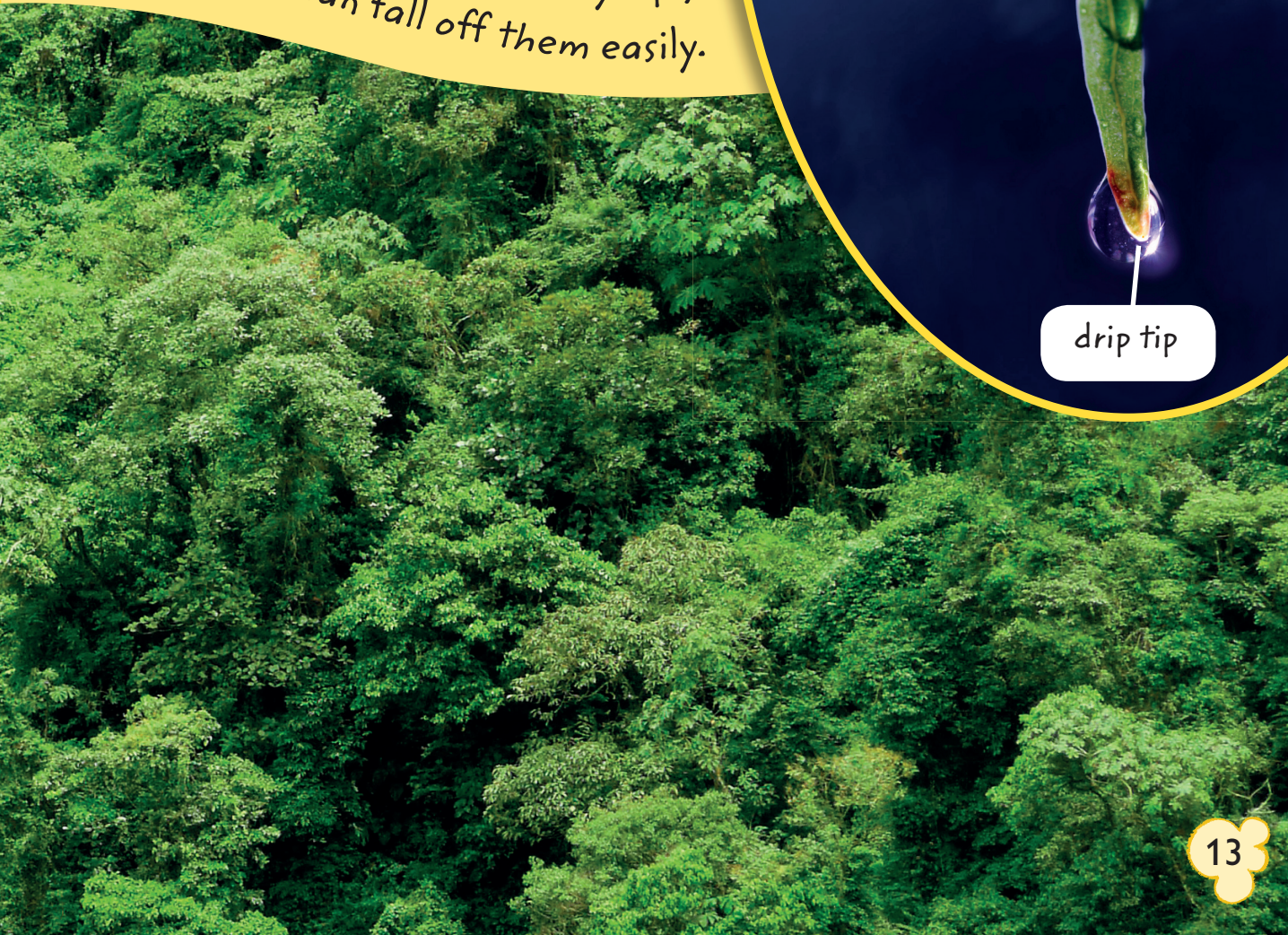


Rainforest trees are mostly evergreens. This means they keep their tough, dark leaves all year round.

The leaves have pointy tips, so rain can fall off them easily.



drip tip





Rainforests in danger

People are cutting down millions of trees. Some use the trees for timber. Others want land for cattle farms, growing crops or for mining.

Many animals and plants are becoming rare, because their homes have been cleared away.

Once trees have gone, rain washes away the soil.



The Earth needs rainforests.
The trees help to keep the air
all around the world clean.

Rainforest people,
animals and birds
need their homes.



Rainforest foods

All these food plants come from the rainforest. Have you eaten any of them? Choose one of the foods and find out how it grows.



bananas



ginger



coconuts



avocados



papayas



cinnamon

Make a model rainforest

Make a mini-rainforest in a shoebox.

You will need:

- a shoebox
- scissors and glue
- paint and paintbrush
- white and coloured card
- felt-tip pens



1. Paint the shoebox inside and out.

2. Cut tree trunks and leaves from coloured card.



3. Cut a slit in each trunk to make two flaps. Glue the leaves to the trunks.

4. Make some card animals. Colour them in.



5. Glue the animals on to the trees. Glue the flaps of the trees to the box base.