



# NATIONAL AQUARIUM IN BALTIMORE.

Conservation Education Department  
Pier 3, 501 East Pratt Street  
Baltimore, MD 21202

# Ask the Aquarium

Fact Sheets from the  
Conservation Education Department

## Rainforest Animals: Emergent Layer

### EMERGENT LAYER

The emergent layer is the tallest layer of the rainforest. Trees in the emergent layer can be up to 150 feet tall. Many trees have flowers. These flowers have something called nectar in them. Nectar is food for many birds.

### Key Terms

- Bird Eating Tarantula— a large, hairy spider that lives in the rainforest
- Emergent Layer— the tallest layer of the rainforest
- Hummingbird— a tiny bird with bright wings that lives in the rainforest
- Migrate— to move from one place to another in different seasons
- Venom— a poison that some animals can inject into predators as a defense

### HUMMINGBIRDS

Hummingbirds are very tiny birds with special beaks. A hummingbird is between 2.25 inches and 8.5 inches. The Bee hummingbird is the smallest bird in the world. A hummingbird finds its shelter in the leaves of the emergent layer. Hummingbirds fly to the trees in the emergent layer to get their food. A hummingbird has a thin beak and a long tongue. This beak helps hummingbirds drink nectar from plants. Hummingbirds also eat insects. A hummingbird gets its water from rain that collects in plants. Hummingbirds flap their wings very quickly. Some can flap their wings 50-75 times in just one second. Hummingbirds are brightly colored. Hummingbirds also live in the United States. In the winter, these birds migrate or move south to warmer places to the rainforest.



*Hummingbird*



*Goliath or Bird Eating Tarantula*

### GOLIATH BIRD-EATING TARANTULA

The Goliath bird-eating tarantula is a large, hairy spider. This tarantula can be as big as a dinner plate. The leg span of a Goliath tarantula can be up to 12 inches. This species of tarantula is big enough to eat small birds. Most tarantulas have venom in their fangs or teeth. This venom is used to kill its prey. This tarantula also has tiny hairs on its body. These hairs can hurt our skin. When this spider feels scared, it can flick these hairs. This tarantula finds its shelter by burrowing in the forest floor. During the flood season, it finds shelter in the trees.