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FACT SHEET FROM THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Emergent

Rain Forest Animals: Emergent Layer

The emergent layer is the tallest layer of the rain forest. Trees in the emergent layer can be up to 150 feet tall. Many trees have flowers. These flowers have nectar in them which is a food for many birds.

HUMMINGBIRD

Hummingbirds are very tiny birds with special beaks. A hummingbird is between 2 inches and 8.5 inches long. 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 up to 200 times in just one second. Hummingbirds are brightly colored. Hummingbirds also live in the United States and migrate or move south in the winter to warmer places in the rain forest.

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.

KEY TERMS

Bird-Eating Tarantula
A large, hairy spider that lives in the rain forest.

Emergent Layer
The tallest layer of the rain forest.

Hummingbird
A tiny bird with bright wings that lives in the rain forest.

Migrate
To move from one place to another in different seasons.

Venom
A poison that some animals can inject into predators as a defense.

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