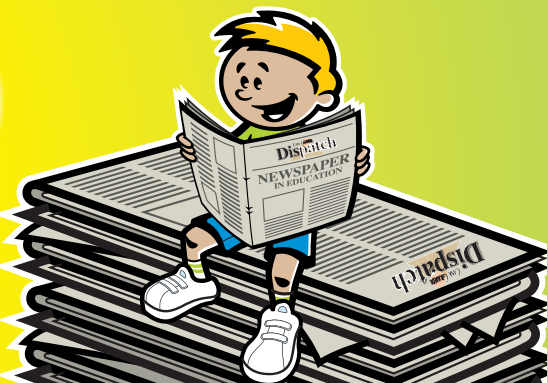
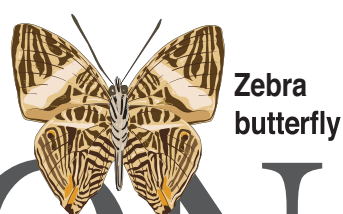


# KEEPING STUDENTS WELL INFORMED AT HOME DURING SUMMER VACATION



## WORLD OF WONDER PART TWO Exploring the realms of history, science, nature and technology



Zebra butterfly

# THE AMAZON

Trim here and attach to part one

## THE CANOPY

Below the emergent layer is the canopy, a dense network of leaves and branches that form a sort of umbrella that blocks wind, rainfall and sunlight from reaching the ground below. The plants and animals that live here have adapted to life high in the trees.

### A popular spot

More animals live in the canopy than in any other layer of the rainforest. Many well-known animals, including monkeys, frogs, lizards, birds, snakes, sloths and small cats, are found here.

Thousands and thousands of insect species can also be found in the canopy, from bees to beetles, borers to butterflies. These insects are the main diet for many of the canopy's creatures.

The **capuchin monkey** weighs just 3-9 pounds (1.4-4.9 kg).

These lean and agile monkeys usually live in large groups of 10 to 35 individuals. Capuchin monkeys sleep on tree branches and descend to the ground only to find drinking water.



Spider monkey

**Orchids** are one of the largest families of plants, with more than 25,000 species around the world. Orchids bloom in many colors and thrive best in humid environments. They rely on birds and insects to pollinate their flowers.

### A cool roof

Parts of the canopy are more than 100 feet (30 m) above the ground. During the day, the canopy is drier and hotter than lower forest areas.

Instead of using wind to disperse seeds, many canopy plants encase their seeds in fruit. Animals eat the sweet fruit and deposit seeds on the forest floor in their droppings.

### A tough study

Scientists have long been interested in studying the canopy, but the high trees made research difficult. Today they use rope bridges, ladders and towers to help discover the secrets of the canopy.

Known as the tigrillo in South America, the **oncilla** is about the size of a domestic cat. Valued by poachers for its fur, oncillas are the most threatened of all the Amazon forest cats. They prey on small mammals, small birds, lizards, tree frogs and eggs.

With enough venom to kill 10 men, the golden poison frog is one of the most toxic animals on Earth.

Cardinal's guard flower



Tiger longwing butterfly

Orchid

Capuchin Blue-and-yellow macaw

Squirrel monkey Postman butterfly

Dung beetle Longhorn beetle

Golden poison frog Scarlet macaw

Oncilla Monkey brush vine



Owl butterfly

### A noisy crowd

The Amazon rainforest canopy is a noisy place. The dense vegetation of the canopy dulls sound, and it can be difficult to see more than a few feet, so many canopy dwellers use shrill or frequent vocalizing to communicate. Gaps between trees mean that some canopy animals fly, glide or jump to move about.

Green iguana

The **monkey brush vine** is a parasitic plant that attaches itself to other plants in the canopy. Iguanas like to rest among these vines.

SOURCES: *World Book Encyclopedia*, World Book Inc.; *The World Almanac for Kids*; <https://kids.mongabay.com>; <https://globalforestallies.yale.edu>; <http://thinkjungle.com>; <https://www.worldwildlife.org>; <https://www.rainforest-alliance.org>

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