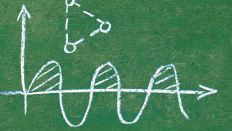


Opening The Windows Of Curiosity

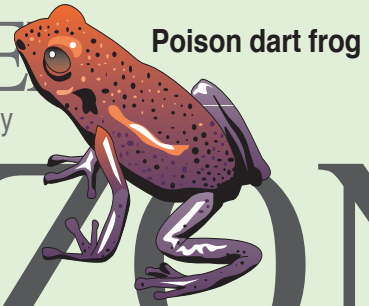
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PART THREE

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

THE AMAZON



Poison dart frog

THE UNDERSTORY

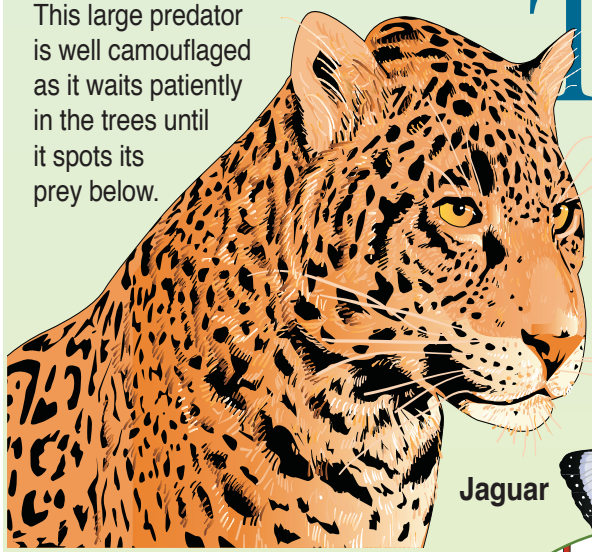
Below the forest canopy is a darker, more humid environment, where shrubs and shorter trees with broad leaves thrive. The understory is home to countless insects. Bats, monkeys, snakes, lizards, jaguars and frogs are also common here.

Wildlife

Some of the creatures found in the canopy can also be found in the understory. Many of the animals found here rely on rainwater dripping down from the emergent and canopy layers. **Amphibians** thrive here because they need a humid environment to keep their skin from drying out. Many insects try to avoid being eaten by looking like sticks or leaves. Many animals warn potential predators that they are poisonous by sporting bright colors.

Trim here and attach to part two

This large predator is well camouflaged as it waits patiently in the trees until it spots its prey below.



Jaguar

In the middle

Below the canopy and above the forest floor is the **understory**. This layer receives less than 5% of the sunlight that the canopy gets. The air here is still and moist.

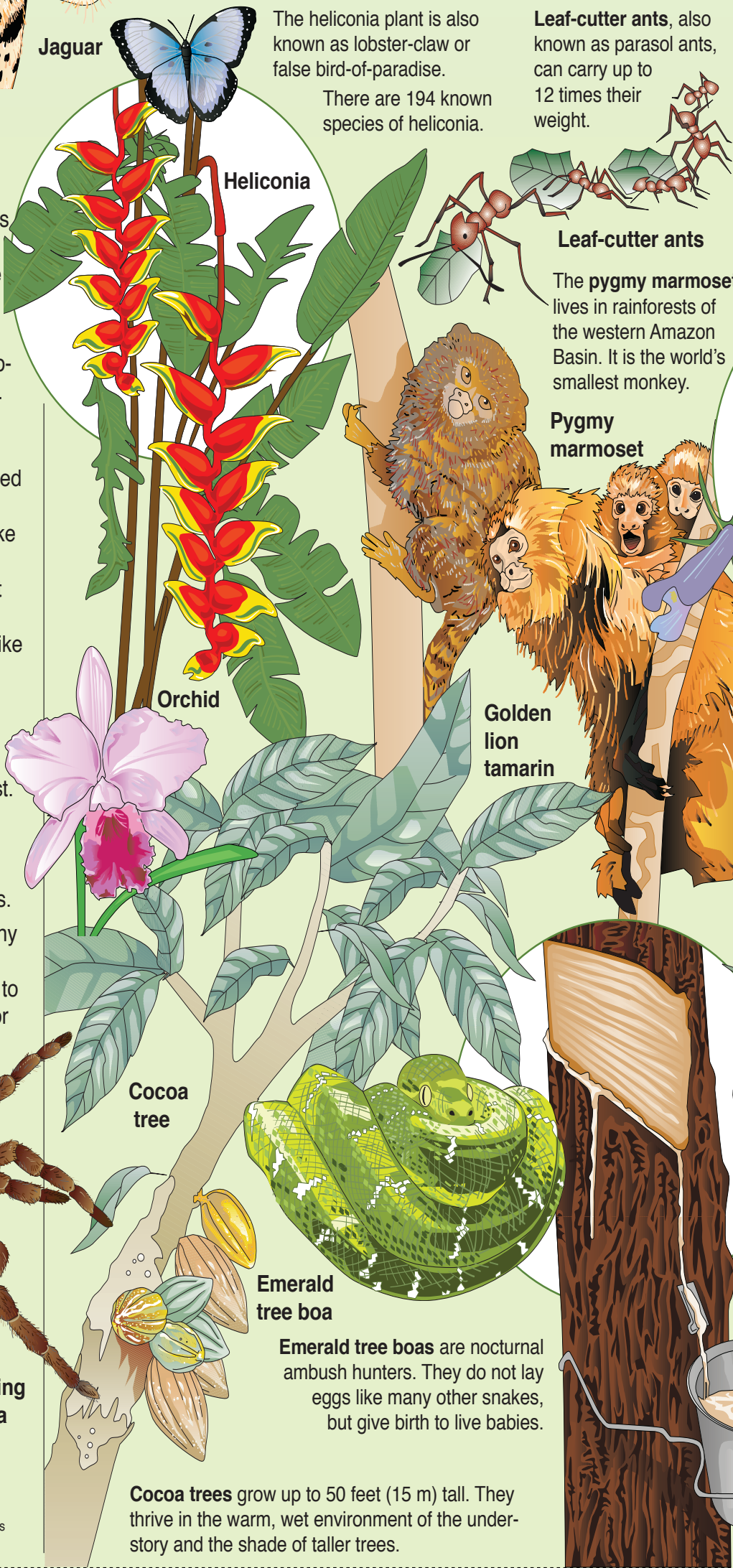
The understory consists of leafy bushes, small trees, saplings (young trees) and vines.

Vegetation

Understory plants have evolved to live with less sunlight than those in the canopy. Plants like **philodendrons** and **palms** have larger, wider leaves that help catch what little sunlight reaches them. Many plants, like **orchids**, get their water and nutrients from the air.

Many flowers have special features to attract pollinators to this darker part of the forest. **Heliconia** flowers are bright and colorful, while flowers such as orchids use a sweet fragrance to attract pollinators.

The rainforest is home to many medicinal plants, such as the chichona plant which is used to make **quinine**, a treatment for malaria.



The heliconia plant is also known as lobster-claw or false bird-of-paradise.

There are 194 known species of heliconia.

Leaf-cutter ants, also known as parasol ants, can carry up to 12 times their weight.

Leaf-cutter ants

The **pygmy marmoset** lives in rainforests of the western Amazon Basin. It is the world's smallest monkey.

Pygmy marmoset

Red-eyed tree frog

Red-eyed tree frogs are nocturnal. They rest in the trees with their legs tucked beneath them and their eyes shut, making them very hard to see.

The **golden lion tamarin** is highly endangered, with population estimates of about 3,000 individuals left in the wild.

The **coffee** plant grows up to 10 feet (3 m) tall.

The coffee plant's green berries turn red when ripe. Each berry contains two coffee beans

The **rubber tree** grows wild in the Amazon rainforest. Natural rubber is a tree sap – known as **latex** – produced by the rubber tree that can be harvested without harming the tree.

With a leg span up to 11 inches (28 cm), this is the world's largest tarantula.

Goliath bird-eating tarantula

Emerald tree boa

Emerald tree boas are nocturnal ambush hunters. They do not lay eggs like many other snakes, but give birth to live babies.

Cocoa trees grow up to 50 feet (15 m) tall. They thrive in the warm, wet environment of the understory and the shade of taller trees.

SOURCES: World Book Encyclopedia, World Book Inc.; https://sciencing.com; https://tropical-rainforest-facts.com; https://www.worldatlas.com; Smithsonian's National Zoo

Trim here and attach to part four

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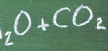
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