



Year 5 Living Things and their Habitats

Strand: Biology

Big Questions: Do all species reproduce in the same way?

Big idea: Living things are special collections of matter that make copies of themselves, use energy and grow. Animals and plants have evolved over millions of generations into different forms in order to survive in the environments in which they live.

Adaptation of a Spider Monkey



Adaptation	What's the Point?
Omnivorous diet.	Food is never in short supply – from birds' eggs to fruit.
Long, strong tail.	Acts as an extra limb and allows them to hang and swing in trees easily.
Brown, grey or red fur.	To blend in with surrounding trees and avoid predators.
Slow reproduction rate – up to five years between births.	This allows them to focus on their babies while they are young, protecting and educating them.
Lives high up in tree canopies.	To avoid predators. This is also where the most nutritious leaves can be found.
Quick movements and ability to work as a team.	To evade attackers.

Plant adaptations

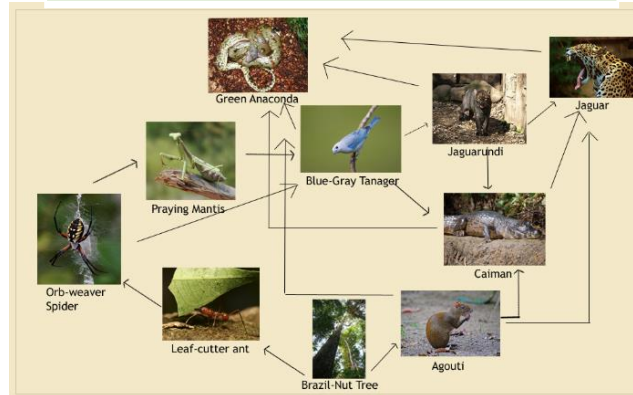


Drip tips: plants have leaves with pointy tips. This allows water to run off the leaves quickly without damaging or breaking them.



Buttress roots - large roots have ridges which create a large surface area that help to support large trees.

Rainforest Food Web

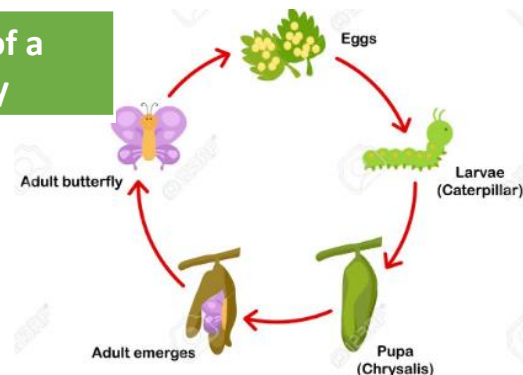


George Washington Carver
1860s –1943
- prominent American scientist and inventor in the early 1900s

Topic vocabulary

ecosystem	All the plants and animals that live in a particular area together and the relationship between them and the environment
biodiversity	the variety of animals and plant life in a particular environment
life cycle	a series of stages of development starting with a fertilized egg in animals or a seed in many plants
adaptation	Gradual changes that happen to living things to allow them to survive in the conditions of the rainforest
deforestation	The cutting down of trees and forests to allow a different land use.
global warming	The rise in the average temperature of the Earth's surface.
epiphyte	Plants which live on the branches of trees high up in the canopy of the tropical rainforest.
humid	When the air holds a lot of moisture.
species	A type of organism that is the basic unit of classification. Individuals of different species are not able to interbreed successfully.

Life cycle of a butterfly



Impact of Deforestation

1	An area the size of 20 football pitches is destroyed every 60 seconds.
2	1/3 of the tropical rainforests we had are gone.
3	28,000 species of animals are expected to become extinct in the next 25 years.
4	Local people's homes are destroyed.
5	Levels of carbon dioxide in the air are increasing and oxygen is decreasing.

Causes of Deforestation

1	To clear space for farming: growing crops (e.g. soya beans & palm oil) and space cattle to generate cheap beef.
2	Chopping down trees for wood.
3	To build roads to mine for metals, gold & diamonds.
4	To dig for oil.
5	To flood areas to make dams & generate electricity.