



Most rain forests grow in hot places near the equator. They are tropical rain forests. Some grow in cool places. They are **temperate** rain forests.



- KEY**
- tropical rain forests
  - temperate rain forests
  - ① Pacific Northwest
  - ② Costa Rica
  - ③ Peruvian Amazon
  - ④ Brazilian Amazon
  - ⑤ Brazilian Coast
  - ⑥ Congo Basin
  - ⑦ Madagascar
  - ⑧ Borneo
  - ⑨ New Guinea
  - ⑩ Tasmania

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## Tropical Rain Forests

Tropical rain forests are hot and wet. How much rain falls every year? Between 80 and 200 inches! The temperatures stay almost the same every day. It is summer all the time.

Tropical rain forests are jungles. They are filled with trees, plants, and vines. Thousands of kinds of animals live in them.

One scientist found forty-three kinds of insects on one tree! The world's largest tropical rain forest is in the Amazon **region** of South America.

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hoatzin  
and baby

The fourth layer is the *forest floor*.  
It is dark and **ecerie**. It is filled with  
plants, mosses, ferns, dead leaves,  
and billions of ants.

capybara

ground  
fern

green  
anaconda

moss

Victoria  
amazonia  
water lily

apple snail

caiman







Many animals live in the trees most of their lives. Some tree frogs never touch the ground. They have sticky toe pads to help them climb slippery leaves. Sloths hang upside down all the time — even when they eat and sleep.



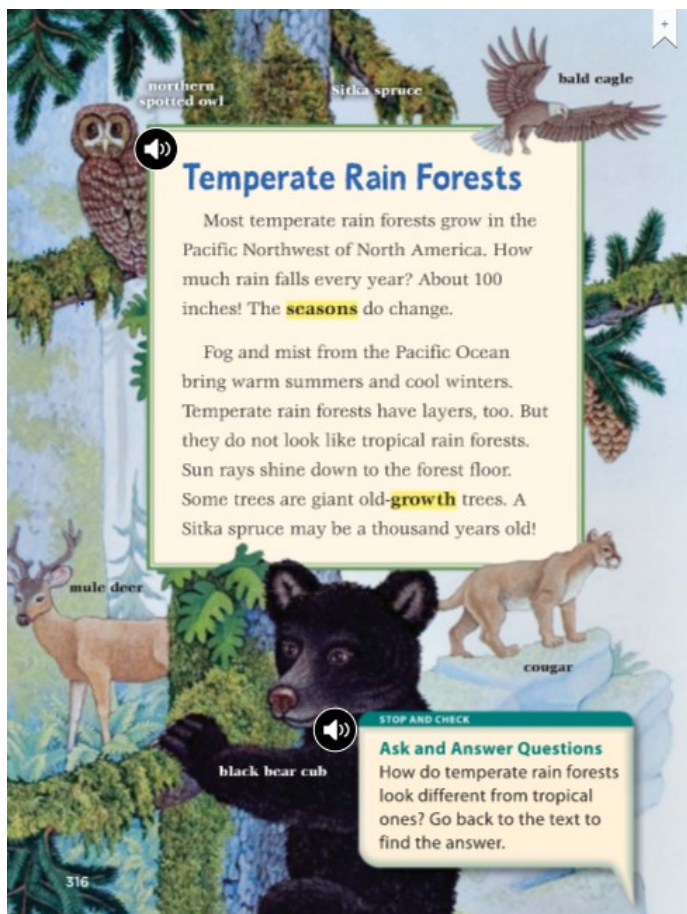
**STOP AND CHECK**

**Reread** Why do some tree frogs never touch the ground? Reread to check your understanding.



Most plants need roots in soil to get water and food. Air plants do not. They grow on tree trunks and get water and food from the air. They are called *epiphytes*. Orchids and bromeliads are epiphytes.





## Temperate Rain Forests

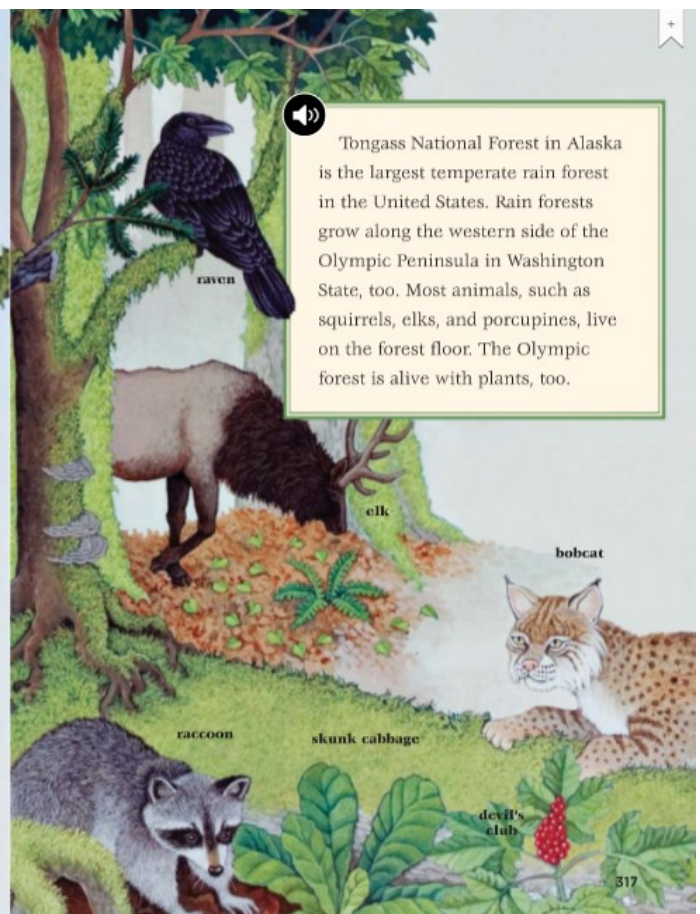
Most temperate rain forests grow in the Pacific Northwest of North America. How much rain falls every year? About 100 inches! The **seasons** do change.

Fog and mist from the Pacific Ocean bring warm summers and cool winters. Temperate rain forests have layers, too. But they do not look like tropical rain forests. Sun rays shine down to the forest floor. Some trees are giant old-**growth** trees. A Sitka spruce may be a thousand years old!

### STOP AND CHECK

#### Ask and Answer Questions

How do temperate rain forests look different from tropical ones? Go back to the text to find the answer.



Tongass National Forest in Alaska is the largest temperate rain forest in the United States. Rain forests grow along the western side of the Olympic Peninsula in Washington State, too. Most animals, such as squirrels, elks, and porcupines, live on the forest floor. The Olympic forest is alive with plants, too.

## About the Author and Illustrator

### Nancy Smiler Levinson

became interested in writing children's books when she began reading to her kids. Nancy likes to research and write nonfiction books because they let her share the things that interest her. She also writes fiction. People sometimes ask her whether she likes writing fiction or nonfiction best. She usually replies, "Both!"



**Diane Dawson Hearn** has illustrated more than fifty books. Diane draws everything from funny cartoon characters to beautiful pictures of real plants and animals. She worked for two years on the illustrations for *Rain Forests*.



### Author's Purpose

How does Nancy use diagrams and illustrations to help you understand the layers of the rain forest?

## Respond to Reading

### Summarize

Use important details from *Rain Forests* to summarize the selection. Information from your Compare and Contrast chart may help you.



### Text Evidence

1. How do you know *Rain Forests* is expository text? **GENRE**
2. What is one way tropical rain forests and temperate rain forests are alike? What is one way they are different? Use details from the selection to support your answer. **COMPARE AND CONTRAST**
3. Use what you know about compound words to figure out the meaning of *sunlight* on page 305. **COMPOUND WORDS**
4. Write about the two kinds of rain forests. Use details from the selection to tell how they are the same and how they are different. **WRITE ABOUT READING**

### Make Connections

What makes rain forests different?  
**ESSENTIAL QUESTION**

Tell about a plant or animal you learned about that lives in the rain forest. **TEXT TO WORLD**