# Rainforest survivors: answers

What your child practised: how rainforest plants and animals cope with heavy rain, deep shade and crowded trees (Year 6 science).

### Page 1 · Warm up

drip tips **R** · climbing vines **L** · huge leaves on the floor **L** · waxy leaves **R**

### Page 2 · Try it together

The drip-tip leaf usually sheds its water faster: the water runs down to the point and drips off. More water sits on the round leaf.

### Page 2 · A. Match

toe pads → cling to wet, slippery leaves
sloth moving slowly → stay hidden from eagles
gripping tail → hold branches like an extra hand
bright colours → warn predators it's poisonous
long bill → reach fruit on very thin twigs

### Page 3 · B. Buttress roots

They spread out wide above the ground, propping up the tall trunk like supports, so the tree doesn't topple over in shallow soil.

### Page 3 · C. Lianas

To reach the **light** at the top of the forest. Plants need light to make food, and the forest floor is very dark.

### Page 3 · D. Feature or behaviour

claws **F** · moving slowly **B** · toe pads **F** · hunting at night **B**

### Page 3 · E. Design

Answers will vary, e.g. huge leaves to catch light, drip tips, climbing stems.

**Challenge:** No. Water is easy to find in a rainforest: it rains almost every day. Rainforest plants have adaptations to get rid of extra water (drip tips, waxy leaves) and to reach the light. A cactus is adapted to save water.

## Watch out for

- **"All plants need to save water."** Different habitats bring different problems. In a rainforest it's too much water and too little light.
- **Slow means weak.** A sloth's slowness is an adaptation: eagles hunt by spotting movement.
- **Bright colours always hide.** Some animals are camouflaged, but a poison dart frog's bright colours are a warning.

## Going further (5 minutes, no paper)

- **Houseplant hunt:** many houseplants come from rainforests. Look for big leaves, pointed tips or climbing stems.
- **In the game:** Chapter 6, How adaptation leads to evolution, shows how adaptations build up over many generations.