



TEACHER GUIDE

London Zoo Rainforest Animals

Spring
2024





HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

This guide highlights a number of rainforest species at London Zoo, many of which are endangered.

ENDANGERED

When a species is at risk of disappearing forever.

We recommend that you visit a selection of the animals in this guide and share the information with your students.

While you can visit these animals in any order, we recommend you explore one coloured zone of the London Zoo map at a time.

PINK ZONE

- 1. In with the Lemurs**
- 2. Rainforest Life**
- 3. Into Africa (Okapi)**

BLUE ZONE

- 4. Tiger Territory**
- 5. Gorilla Kingdom**

ORANGE ZONE

- 6. Butterfly Paradise**
- 7. Tiny Giants**
- 8. In with the Monkeys**



1. RING-TAILED LEMURS

Habitat: Dry open areas and forests of Madagascar

**TOP TIP: HAVE A CHAT WITH OUR FRIENDLY STAFF
AND VOLUNTEERS IN THE LEMUR ENCLOSURE.
WE'LL TELL YOU ALL ABOUT THE TROOP!**



BEFORE YOU ENTER

In with the Lemurs is a walkthrough habitat. Remind your students not to touch or feed the lemurs, and to keep a respectful distance.

BEFORE YOU ENTER

Ring-tailed lemurs are very social and live in large troops. They spend lots of time grooming each other with the comb-like front teeth.

STINKY SQUABBLES

During mating season, male ring-tailed lemurs have stink fights! They rub their tails with scent from their wrist glands, then glare at their opponent and waft the smell at them. The least smelly lemur loses!

LESSER KNOWN LEMURS

Ring-tailed lemurs are probably the most well-known species of lemur, but there are many other lemur species in Madagascar that are critically endangered.

ZSL's [EDGE of Existence](#) programme highlights some of the most overlooked and endangered species on the planet, including animals like the critically endangered [Red-Ruffed Lemur](#).



2. RAINFOREST LIFE

TOP TIP: ASK OUR FRIENDLY STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS IN THE RAINFOREST TO TELL YOU MORE ABOUT THE ANIMALS!

WHO LIVES HERE?

Rainforest Life has a variety of different animals sharing the same space. The monkeys are often the easiest to spot, but look closer and you can find sloths, tortoises, bats, and even a tree-dwelling anteater!

ADAPTING TO LIFE IN THE RAINFOREST

Can you feel how hot and humid it is? To live in this environment, animals need be able to withstand high temperatures and frequent rainfall. Many animals here also have adaptations that help them climb trees with ease, and can be very vocal as they need to communicate through dense foliage.

Here are some brilliant rainforest specialists to look out for:

TWO-TOED SLOTH



Curved claws to hook onto tree branches

RODRIGUES FRUIT BAT



Large eyes to help see at night

WHITE-FACED SAKI MONKEY



Dense fur to protect from rainfall



2. RAINFOREST LIFE (continued)

DEFORESTATION

The biggest threat to our rainforest animals is deforestation. Trees are often cut down to make space for cattle farms, palm oil plantations, and other human activities.

To learn more about the issues affecting the rainforest and how you can help, encourage your students to find the items below.

RAINFOREST SCAVENGER HUNT



Find the statistics on how quickly the rainforest is being cut down.



Find the camera trap. What is it and how does it help rainforest animals?



Find the big board that shows ways you can help the rainforest.



4. SUMATRAN TIGERS

Habitat: Rainforests of Sumatra and Indonesia

**TOP TIP: OUR TIGERS SLEEP FOR 20 HOURS A DAY!
LOOK OUT FOR THEM UNDER THE TREES AND PLATFORMS.**



TERRIFIC TIGERS

The Sumatran tiger is the smallest and most stripey of all tiger subspecies.

Sumatran tigers are the most endangered subspecies of tiger, and there's less than 600 left in the wild.

Sumatran tigers can leap forward 10 metres in one pounce! How far can you jump?

PALM OIL PROBLEMS

There's estimated to be 500-600 Sumatran tigers left in the wild.

Sumatran tigers are affected by deforestation for palm oil plantations, and illegal hunting for their skins and body parts.

You can help tigers by choosing to purchase products that use sustainable palm oil.





5. WESTERN LOWLAND GORILLAS

Habitat: Rainforests of Central Africa

TOP TIP: THE BEST TIME TO SEE THE GORILLAS IS EARLIER IN THE DAY. THEY REALLY LOVE A LUNCHTIME NAP!



GIGANTIC GORILLAS

Western Lowland Gorillas are the largest of all ape species.

They can weigh up to 200kg, the same as two adult humans!

Western Lowland Gorillas are gardeners of the forest. They spread seeds through their poo and creating clearings for plants to grow. This makes them crucial to maintaining the biodiversity of our rainforests.

GUARD THE GORILLAS: RECYCLE YOUR PHONE

Deforestation of rainforest habitat for coltan is a major threat to gorillas. Coltan is a material used in mobile phones and laptops. Rainforest habitat is destroyed to make space for coltan mines, which affects gorillas and many other rainforest species.

You can help gorillas by recycling your old electronics, and buying new phones less often.



6. BUTTERFLY PARADISE

A variety of Rainforest butterfly species live here

TOP TIP: THIS HABITAT IS BEST ENJOYED IN SMALL GROUPS. IF YOU'RE IN A LARGE GROUP, PLEASE STAGGER YOUR ENTRY.



BEFORE YOU ENTER

Remind your students to take care as they walk through the habitat, as butterflies sometimes land on the ground.

PICK UP A BUTTERFLY GUIDE

There are laminated butterfly spotter guides on your left as you enter, with information on the species you can find in this habitat.

TALK TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

There is always a member of the London Zoo team in this habitat. They are happy to chat, so ask them for more information on our butterflies.

CHECK OUT A CHRYSALIS

Right before you exit, look to your left to find our display of live butterfly chrysalises and moth cocoons. Look closely to see if any are wriggling. If you're lucky, you may see a butterfly or moth emerging!

BEWARE OF HITCHHIKERS!

Encourage your students to check each other before they leave the habitat, so they don't accidentally bring a butterfly with them on their journey.



7. TINY GIANTS

TOP TIP: TINY GIANTS WORKS BEST AS A ONE-WAY SYSTEM, FOLLOWING THE PATH TO THE RIGHT AS YOU ENTER.

WHO LIVES HERE?

Welcome to the wonderful world of invertebrates!

Making up 98% of animals on our planet, many of these little creatures are at the heart of Rainforest life on the forest floor. Here are some brilliant rainforest minibeasts to be on the lookout for.

LEAF-CUTTER ANT



**JUNGLE NYMPH
STICK INSECT**



**BRAZILIAN SALMON PINK
BIRD-EATING SPIDER**



INVERTEBRATE ISSUES

How might insects and spiders be affected by deforestation? Consider how the insects you've seen today use their camouflage and what habitats they live in.

How can you help insects in your local green spaces?



8. SQUIRREL MONKEYS

Habitat: Rainforests of South America

**TOP TIP: SQUIRREL MONKEYS ARE VERY CURIOUS!
ENSURE BAGS ARE ZIPPED UP AND ALL FOOD AND DRINK
IS TUCKED AWAY BEFORE ENTRY.**



HAVE A CHAT!

There is always a London Zoo staff member or volunteer in the squirrel monkey habitat who can give you lots of additional information about our squirrel monkeys.

They can also tell you more about their personalities.

SOCIAL SQUIRREL MONKEYS

In the wild, squirrel monkeys can live in large groups with up to 500 members.

Squirrel monkeys are most often found climbing the canopy and foraging on the forest floor in the rainforest.

They have several vocal calls to communicate in the dense rainforest, including warning calls to protect themselves from large falcons!