The red-eyed tree frog lives in the rainforests of Central and South America

Orang-utans, found in the rainforests of Borneo and Sumatra, Southeast Asia, are endangered because of deforestation

Seeds from the cacao tree are used to make chocolate!

Rainforests revealed

From the sunny tree tops to the dense forest floor, check out the many layers of the rainforest...



1 **Emergent layer** These large, umbrella-like branches are at tree-top height — up to 60m tall. They're home to animals like small monkeys, butterflies and even eagles.

2 **Canopy layer** These trees are packed much closer together, creating a 'ceiling' over the forest which shades the ground and collects rainfall. 70% of rainforest life is found here.

3 **Understorey layer** This humid layer is halfway down the height of the tallest tree and is where most of the carbon is stored. Frogs, birds, insects and even leopards live here.

4 **Shrub layer** Around 8m off the forest floor, many of the plants here have medicinal properties. Full of fruit and flowers, it's perfect for butterflies.

5 **Forest floor** Very little sunlight reaches this part of the rainforest so it's great for fungi, moss and herbs. Bugs and amphibians love the humidity, but they must watch out for predators!

Why I ♥ the rainforests!



Steve is passionate about rainforests!

"I've been on lots of expeditions to rainforests over the years — they're filled with so much magic, from colourful frogs with big voices to bugs as long as your arm and spiders as big as your hand! But the rainforest is a place that's changed more than anywhere else I know in the last 20 years. When I first visited, there were trees as far as the eye could see, but the last time I went back, the forests were vanishing.

If you were to take all of the animals living in one rainforest tree, half of them would be unknown to science. There's more knowledge in the unknown biodiversity of the rainforests than we could ever imagine! And our planet will not be the same if we let them go."

Steve Backshall's new novel, *Ghosts of the Forest*, set in the rainforests of Borneo, is out now through Orion Children's Books.



Liz is working with WWF to help save tigers in the wild!

"I think rainforests are amazing! When I was little, I remember my mother taking us into one in Trinidad where I saw amazing wildlife that exists no where else on this planet. It was a very special moment for me. But now, in Sumatra, Southeast Asia, tigers are losing their rainforest habitats to palm oil plantations.

If we are to preserve these amazing habitats, we must combine our knowledge with the needs of the people who rely on the rainforests to live, so we can make a sustainable outcome for both! Rainforests are the last of the really wild places left on Earth. In the rainforest you're reminded of the power and the strength of our planet — and I love that!"

Liz Bonnin, TV presenter and animal biologist, is working with Whiskas and WWF to raise awareness of a new partnership aimed at helping to protect the few remaining tigers in the wild. Turn to page 3 for more or visit whiskas.co.uk/wwf

DID YOU KNOW...?

Every 78 seconds, an area of rainforest the size of a football pitch is destroyed through deforestation, wiping out more than 137 species of plants and animals every single day!



Rainforest homes are made from natural materials

Edible environment

You may not know it, but we use products from the rainforest every day in our lives. At least 80% of the developed world's diet originated in the tropical rainforests — from avocados and coconuts to oranges, lemons, herbs, spices and chocolate!

And it's not only food — one in four of the *medicines* we buy contains ingredients that originally came from rainforests. Scientists believe that cures for many diseases could still be hidden away within the millions of undiscovered plants in these mysterious forests.

Homes for people

But animals and plants aren't the only inhabitants of our rainforests. Humans call this leafy world their home, too. An estimated 50 million indigenous people live in these 60m-high forests — that's almost the same as the population of the UK! Some tribes have *never* been contacted by the outside world.

These forest dwellers rely on and *look after* their canopied home for food, shelter, work and even medicine, and they've done so for thousands of years. Like living libraries, the knowledge of medicinal uses of plants in the forest has been passed down from generation to generation.

Fight for the forests

Sadly, when trees are chopped down or burned to make way for roads, farms, mines, towns and unsustainable palm oil plantations, both the animals and the people living in these rainforests lose their homes and their way of life.

The carbon stored in tree trunks is released back into the atmosphere as CO_2, adding to the global-warming gases that are heating up our planet. So many trees are chopped down that deforestation releases more CO_2 into the atmosphere than all of the world's planes, trains and cars put together!

So find out how YOU can help these wonderful forests by heading over to **wwf.org.uk** and **rainforest-alliance.org/kids** now! Turn to page 22 to see what you can do at school!



The Rainforest Alliance is helping kids and their families in Honduras, Central America!



Coffee comes from the rainforest, too!

Follow the Frog!

The **Rainforest Alliance** is a charity which works with farmers, helping them farm in a way that protects the land, wildlife and workers. Its annual **Follow The Frog Week** is running from 16-22 September, so look out for the Rainforest Alliance's little green frog stamp when you're shopping for food — and you can help make a difference! Find out more at **rainforest-alliance.org/kids**

Main picture, horse and orang-utans: Getty Images/DK; Steve Backshall: Nick Preston; Kids, coffee, cacao and frogs: Rainforest Alliance