Rainforest Necklace Scavenger Hunt Answer Key

Forest Floor

Vines (Philodendron): There are vines that grow up around large trees in the Rainforest. Why do you think these vines have adapted this behavior?

The vines that grow around large trees to get as much sunlight as possible in the forest floor.

Tree with flowers on its trunk: Do you like chocolate? This is the tree it comes from! Its flowers and fruit grow right on its woody branches which support its large and heavy fruit. How does having fruit that is easily seen help this tree reproduce?

Attention: The Theobroma (cacao tree) may not be flowering during your field trip! This may be a good point to bring up with students. Plants are not always in flower. This is a cauliflorous plant, which means the flowers and fruit grow right on the trunk and woody branches of the plant, rather than from new growth and shoots. The large fruit can be more easily spotted by potential seed dispersers. Cauliflory also makes the flowers and fruit more accessible for pollinators and seed dispersers that do not live in the canopy of the forest or do not fly.

African Giant Black Millipede: This animal eats decaying leaves and plants in the rainforest floor. How does this eating habit help the health of the plants in the rainforest?

The Millipede breaks down dead plant matter when it eats. It creates fecal matter which fertilizes the plants in the forest.

Sungei Tawan Toad: Why do you think this forest floor creature is a dark green- brown in color?

The Sungei Tawan Toad is this color to allow it to blend in with its background. It looks like a rock or moss, which helps protect the Toad.

Understory

Pointy spines on a peach palm tree: How do you think the long, stiff spines on the trunk of this tree help it survive?

The long, sharp spines protect the tree from small herbivorous animals. The animals cannot climb over the spines to eat the tree's leaves.

Bromeliad: This plant's leaves form a cup that catches rain water and provides habitats for other animals. Animals such as frogs use these 'cups' of water. What do they use these pools for?

Frogs use the 'cups' of water created by Bromeliad to lay their eggs, drink and for protection. Their eggs grow and hatch into frogs in these small cups of water high up in the trees. The cups also used as a source of water to the frogs

Common Flat Tail Gecko: This Gecko can change the color of its skin to blend into dark surroundings, why do you think it needs to do this? (Look closely! This species is tricky to find!!)

The Gecko needs to be able to blend in with its surroundings to protect itself from predators such as large birds.

Macaw: Macaws mostly eat the fruits of plants. How does this help plants reproduce?

Macaws play the role of seed dispersers in the rainforest. Due to their messy eating habits, they drop seeds from the plants they eat. Given the right conditions, some of these seeds may develop into new plants.

Canopy

A butterfly-pollinated flower: Butterflies fly around from flower to flower drinking nectar. How do you think this behavior helps with plant pollination?

When a butterfly lands on a flower to collect nectar from the flowers some of the pollen rubs off onto the butterfly. Then this Butterfly collects nectar from another flower and leaves that pollen behind, this then pollinates the flower.

A flower (any flower): Flowers are modified leaves of plants that serve a special purpose. Why do you think plants adapted to have brightly colored flowers?

Plants have adapted to have brightly colored flowers to attract pollinators that will pollinate the plant and helps it reproduce.

A bird in the trees: If you were a bird in a rainforest canopy, why might you hang out in a tree?

Several birds in the rainforest are adapted to live in trees. They find food (fruit, insects), avoid predators, and build nests for their offspring high in canopy trees.

Paradise Flying Snake: The Paradise Flying Snakes flies through the canopy without wings! What adaptations allow it to does this?

The Paradise Flying Snake spreads its ribs to flatten out, and then floats through the air like a paraglider.