



CLIL READERS

The Amazon Rainforest

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Express Publishing

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An aerial photograph of the Amazon Rainforest, showing a dense green canopy with a winding river that has a milky, light-brown hue. The river meanders through the forest, creating a complex pattern of curves and bends. The surrounding forest is a vibrant green, with varying shades indicating different types of vegetation and the density of the trees.

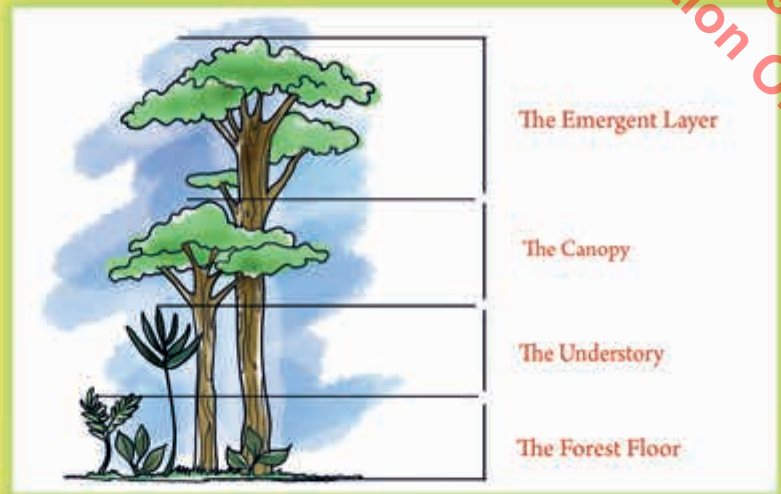
The Amazon Rainforest

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The Amazon Rainforest is in South America. It is over 2 million square miles and covers roughly 80% of the Amazon Basin, including parts of Brazil, Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, and Venezuela. The Amazon River, the second longest river in the world, flows through the forest. The river begins high in the Andes Mountains and flows all the way to the Atlantic Ocean. The Amazon Rainforest has a hot, humid climate due to its geographical location and the fact that the equator goes through it.



The Amazon Rainforest layers



The emergent layer is the highest level of the forest, and is made up of the tops of the tallest trees. These trees are much taller than the average trees in the forest. Some tower almost 200 feet above the forest floor. Many birds and insects live in this layer.

The next layer down is the canopy layer, which includes most of the treetops in the forest. These trees are shorter than the ones in the emergent layer, but there are more of them. The canopy is like a maze of tree branches, vines, and other plants. It receives less sunshine than the emergent layer, but more than the bottom two layers. Many creatures live here, like insects, monkeys, birds, and reptiles.

The next layer down is the understory. This layer is below the tops of the trees but still above the ground. There is less sun in this layer, so there is also less vegetation. Many animals call this layer home, however. Frogs, insects, and some small mammals live here. Large predators like jaguars spend a lot of time in this layer looking for meals.

The forest floor is the lowest level. This layer is very dark – in fact, only 2% of the sunlight that hits the canopy layer reaches the forest floor. The plants that grow in this layer are well adapted to low light conditions. Large rainforest animals like anteaters live in this layer.

In this book we will look at three of the creatures that make the rainforest their home. We'll find out how they hunt for food, how they look after their young, and what their relationships with other creatures are like.

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Tufted Capuchin

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The Hunted Turns Hunter

A group of tufted capuchin monkeys are foraging for food. They find a fig tree with ripe fruit and happily begin to eat. They might fight over the best spots, but for the most part the morning is peaceful.

Suddenly, a female capuchin sees a dark shadow passing over her head. She lets out a loud scream – an alarm call – and all of the monkeys begin to scream too. They quickly go to lower, safer branches. Most of them escape, but one female loses her young child. The mother looks around in panic and cries out. The young animal calls back to its mother. The female quickly turns her head around, sees her child, and runs toward it. She stops when she sees the claws of a harpy eagle pierce the tiny monkey's flesh. Knowing that there is nothing she can do to save her child, the mother moves away, to the safety of the lower branches.



Birds of prey are the predators that the capuchins fear most. Capuchins are so scared of them that they scream and hide when any large bird flies above them. Many other animals, such as jaguars, snakes, and crocodiles, are also a threat to these monkeys. For this reason, tufted capuchins sleep high in the trees. They make a nest out of branches and leaves, away from any possible predators on the ground.

The Amazon Rainforest

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Word Bank

(pp. 4-5)

cover (v) = to be spread over an area

flow (v) = (of a liquid, gas, or electricity) to move continuously

forest (n) = a large area full of trees and plants

geographical location (phr) = the place where sth is in the world

humid (adj) = (of the weather) hot and wet

climate (n) = the long-term weather conditions of an area

equator (n) = an imaginary line around the middle of the Earth, halfway between the North and South poles

(pp. 6-7)

emergent layer (phr) = the highest/top part of a forest

be made up of (phr v) = to have different parts

average (adj) = typical

insect (n) = a small creature with six legs (and usually wings), such as an ant or a fly

canopy layer (phr) = the part of a forest below the emergent layer

treetop (n) = the highest branches and top part of a tree

maze (n) = a complex network of paths or passages

branch (n) = the part of a tree growing from its trunk

vine (n) = a plant with very long stems which grows around a wall, tree, etc.

receive (v) = to get

sunshine (n) = the light and heat received from the sun

reptile (n) = a cold-blooded animal which has scales on its skin and lays eggs

understory layer (phr) = the part of the forest which is above the forest floor layer and below the canopy layer

vegetation (n) = plant life

frog (n) =



mammal (n) = an animal that gives birth to babies and feeds its young with milk

predator (n) = an animal that kills and eats other animals

jaguar (n) =



meal (n) = food that is eaten at one time

well-adapted (adj) = having been made or adjusted to fit into a certain environment or situation

conditions (pl n) = external or existing circumstances

anteater (n) =



hunt (v) = to try to catch an animal in order to eat it

relationship (n) = the way a person or animal behaves towards another person or animal

creature (n) = a living thing

Pre-Reading activities

1 a) Decide which of the following sentences you think are *T* (true) and which are *F* (false).

- 1 The Amazon Rainforest is in Venezuela.
- 2 The Amazon River is the longest in the world.
- 3 The Amazon River flows all the way from the Andes mountains to the Atlantic Ocean.
- 4 The equator goes through the Amazon Rainforest and River.
- 5 The emergent layer is the highest in the forest.
- 6 All of the trees in the rainforest are over 200 feet tall.

b) Listen, read, and check if your answers were correct.

While-Reading activities

2 Read the text and choose the correct option.

- 1 The Amazon Rainforest is
 - A less than two million square miles.
 - B more than two million square miles.
- 2 The climate of the rainforest is influenced by
 - A the types of plants and animals that live there.
 - B its geographical location.
- 3 The highest part of the forest is called the
 - A emergent layer.
 - B forest floor layer.
- 4 The canopy layer has
 - A shorter trees than the emergent layer.
 - B taller trees than the emergent layer.
- 5 The understory layer of the forest
 - A has less vegetation than other layers.
 - B is like a maze of vines and branches.

3 Fill in: *dark, forest floor, reptiles, below, mammals, canopy, insects, shorter, sunshine, vegetation, anteaters, emergent.*

- 1 The highest level of the forest is called the layer. Many birds and live there in the treetops.
- 2 In the layer, the trees are than in the emergent layer. There is less in this layer and it is home to monkeys, birds, and
- 3 The understory layer is the tops of the trees. There is less and sun in this layer. You can find insects, frogs and small here.
- 4 The layer is the lowest in the rainforest. It hardly gets any sunlight so it is very Animals such as have adapted well to living here.

After-Reading activities

4 Choose the option that summarizes the key point of each paragraph.

Paragraph 1

- A The Amazon rainforest is not near the equator.
- B The Amazon rainforest is between the Andes Mountains and the Atlantic Ocean.
- C The Amazon rainforest lies across several South American countries.

Paragraph 2

- A The trees in the emergent layer are average-sized.
- B The emergent layer is the top layer of the forest.
- C All the trees in the emergent layer are over 200 feet tall.

Paragraph 3

- A The trees in the canopy layer are the tallest in the forest.
- B There is not much sunshine in the canopy layer, which means the trees are shorter.
- C The canopy layer is full of all kinds of plants and animals.

Paragraph 4

- A The understory layer has some large predator animals in it.
- B Only small mammals and frogs live in the understory layer.
- C The understory layer is above the top of the trees.

Paragraph 5

- A The forest floor layer is too dark for any animals to live there.
- B Only 2% of animals live in the forest floor layer.
- C Only large rainforest animals live in the forest floor level.

5 Use your answers from Ex. 4 to tell the class a short summary of the text.

Review

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Listening activities



1 Listen to the following dialogue. Then, choose the correct answer A, B, C, or D.

- 1 What are the speakers mainly talking about?
 - A how to teach animals to use tools
 - B ways that different animals use tools
 - C what it means when animals use tools
 - D how animals make tools out of stone
- 2 According to the speaker, bottlenose dolphins use tools
 - A to play games.
 - B to break things open.
 - C to catch food.
 - D to protect themselves.



2 Listen to the following dialogue. Then, choose the correct answer A, B, C, or D.

- 1 What are the speakers mainly talking about?
 - A how sloths resemble other animals
 - B an ancestor of modern sloths
 - C how sloth metabolisms evolved
 - D the largest species of modern sloth
- 2 What do some scientists believe is true about Megatheria?
 - A They moved faster than elephants.
 - B They killed and ate sloths.
 - C They moved fast when they were hunting.
 - D They lived in North America.



3

Listen to the following monologue. Then, choose the correct answer A, B, C, or D.

- 1 What is the main topic of the lecture?
 - A warriors that dressed up like jaguars
 - B how Aztecs used jaguars in battle
 - C how warriors fought jaguars
 - D Aztec gods that protected jaguars
- 2 How did an Aztec become a jaguar warrior?
 - A by killing as many enemies as possible
 - B by catching a wild jaguar
 - C by fighting in many battles
 - D by capturing his enemies



Myths & Legends

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Pre-Reading activities

1 a) Decide which of the following sentences you think are *T* (true) and which are *F* (false).

- 1 The mapinguari is more than six feet tall.
- 2 The mapinguari is a very quiet creature.
- 3 Not everyone believes that the mapinguari is real.
- 4 The jaguar is important only in the Mayan culture.
- 5 The Mayans believed that gods and spirits lived in the physical world.
- 6 They also thought that the jaguar was a connection between people and the gods.

b)  Listen and read the text. Were your guesses correct?

A Frightening Animal

People who live in the Amazon Rainforest in Brazil tell a tale of a frightening beast. It looks like a giant sloth and when it rises on its back legs, it is seven feet tall. The mapinguari, as it is called, has long, sharp claws and smells terrible. It also screams loudly.

Some people think this animal is imaginary. Others believe that there may be some truth to the stories about it. About 10,000 years ago, there were giant sloths in the Amazon that lived on the ground. Humans lived there too, at that time. Some researchers believe that modern stories about mapinguari go back to when humans lived side by side with the giant sloths.

Magical Creatures

Jaguars were important in the mythology of many cultures. The mythology of the ancient Maya is a classic example. The Maya believed that there were two worlds: the physical world that humans lived in and the spiritual world that the gods, spirits, and demons lived in. The day belonged to the physical world and the night belonged to the spiritual world. Because the jaguar hunted at dawn and dusk, the Maya believed it crossed between the physical and spiritual world. The jaguar, therefore, represented a link between humans and the gods.



Word Bank

tale (n) = a story

beast (n) = a wild, dangerous animal

giant (adj) = huge

rise (v) = to stand up

imaginary (adj) = not existing in real life

researcher (n) = sb studying a particular topic

mythology (n) = a collection of ancient stories of a particular culture

classic (adj) = typical

physical world (phr) = the natural world that we can see and touch

spiritual world (phr) = the world that relates to deep feelings and beliefs rather than physical surroundings

god (n) = a supernatural being that people of a particular religion believe in

spirit (n) = a supernatural being

demon (n) = an evil spirit

dawn (n) = sunrise; day break

dusk (n) = the time just before night, when it is not completely dark yet

represent (v) = to symbolize

link (n) = a connection

While-Reading activities

2 Read the text and for questions 1-3 choose the best answer A, B, C, or D.

- 1 What can we understand about the mapinguari from the text?
 - A that people can't agree as to whether it exists or not
 - B that residents in Brazil see it all the time
 - C that it isn't very dangerous in general
 - D that researchers don't believe the modern stories about it
- 2 Why does the author mention ancient Mayan Mythology?
 - A to introduce a theory about how the mythology developed
 - B to compare Mayan beliefs about jaguars to those of other cultures
 - C to give an example of a mythology that features jaguars
 - D to show where more information about jaguars is available
- 3 The Maya believed that the jaguar
 - A was a demon.
 - B lived in two worlds.
 - C was a spiritual god.
 - D hunted only in the spiritual world.

3 Fill in: *mythology, link, rises, researchers, beast.*

- 1 People in the Amazon Rainforest talk about a scary that lives in Brazil.
- 2 The mapinguari is said to be seven feet tall when it on its back legs.
- 3 The Mayan has a story about the jaguar.
- 4 believe that the stories about the mapinguari come from the time when humans lived together with huge sloths.
- 5 The Maya thought that jaguars were a between gods and humans.

After-Reading activities

4 Use: *link, demons, imaginary, spiritual, tale, physical, and giant* to write two short paragraphs summarizing the texts.

Reading in Context

Pre-Reading activities

- 1 a) Choose the word/phrase that you think best completes the sentence.
- 1 People call the Amazon Rainforest “the **heart/lungs** of the world.”
 - 2 Twenty percent of the world’s **oxygen/fresh water** comes from the Amazon Rainforest.
 - 3 Photosynthesis is a **chemical/natural** process.
 - 4 **Plants/Animals** from the rainforest are used to make medicine.
 - 5 The Amazon Rainforest is home to 20 percent of the world’s **bird/fish** species.

b)  Listen and read the text. Were your guesses correct?



The Amazon Rainforest is important not only for the local environment, but for the whole planet. The rainforest is called “the lungs of the Earth,” as more than 40 percent of the trees on Earth grow there, and they produce 20

percent of the world’s oxygen. This is done through photosynthesis, a natural process during which trees and plants absorb harmful carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and release oxygen. The Amazon Rainforest, then, is vital in keeping the levels of air pollution around the world down, and the world’s climate stable.

Another reason why the Amazon Rainforest plays an important role in our lives is the fact that there are unique plant species in the area which are used to make medicine for people all over the world. Humans have used plants from the Amazon Rainforest in farming, medicine, and even clothing for thousands of years. Most importantly, the cures for several diseases have been found by using plants and substances from the Amazon.

The biodiversity of the Amazon Basin is something else that makes the area very special. It is home to 30 percent of the world’s plant and animal species, and 20 percent of the world’s bird species. The Amazon is also the habitat of many species which are found nowhere else.

These are only some of the ways in which the Amazon Rainforest affects the life of each and every one of us. No matter where we live in the world, in some way or another we rely on the Amazon for cleaner air, a healthier life, and an environment rich in wildlife.

Word Bank

local (adj) = relating or belonging to a particular area

lung (n) = each of the two organs in the body that help people breathe

oxygen (n) = a gas that is in the air and that all living things need to live

photosynthesis (n) = the way in which plants use the light and energy of the sun to make their own food

process (n) = a series of actions

absorb (v) = to take in; to soak up

harmful (adj) = able to do damage

carbon dioxide (n) = a gas that is formed when people or animals breathe out, or when sth that contains carbon (e.g. coal, paper, wood) is burned

release (v) = to let out

vital (adj) = very important

air pollution (phr) = substances in the air which make it unhealthy to breathe

stable (adj) = not likely to change suddenly

unique (adj) = existing only in a particular area; very special

cure (n) = a treatment that makes a disease or illness go away

several (det) = a number of

biodiversity (n) = the number of different plants and animals that live in a particular area

habitat (n) = the natural environment of a plant or an animal

affect (v) = to influence sth or sb; to cause sth or sb to change

rich in (phr) = full of

wildlife (n) = plants and animals that live in natural conditions

While-Reading activities

2 Read the text and match the beginnings of the sentences to their endings.

- 1 ☐ Trees clean the air
- 2 ☐ The Amazon Rainforest helps keep
- 3 ☐ Plants from the Amazon Rainforest are used in
- 4 ☐ Some of the wildlife species in the Amazon Rainforest
- 5 ☐ The Amazon Rainforest affects our lives

- A farming and medicine.
- B in many different ways.
- C by taking in carbon dioxide.
- D are unique to the area.
- E the world's climate stable.

3 a) Mark the sentences as *T* (true) or *F* (false).

- 1 More than half of the trees in the world are in the Amazon Rainforest.
- 2 One fifth of the oxygen in the world comes from the Amazon Rainforest.
- 3 Photosynthesis is a process that harms trees and plants.
- 4 It is only recently that people started using plants from the Amazon to make medicine.
- 5 The Amazon is the habitat of 30 percent of all the plant and animal species in the world.

b) Correct the false statements.

4 Fill in: *releases, biodiversity, cures, harmful, vital, habitat*.

- 1 The of the Amazon Rainforest makes it popular with scientists, who visit the area to study the thousands of different plant and animal species that live there.
- 2 Carbon dioxide is for people and animals, but plants need it to make their own food.
- 3 The Amazon Rainforest is the natural of many wildlife species.
- 4 The rainforest is rich in plants that are used in for different diseases.
- 5 After a plant takes in carbon dioxide, it oxygen into the atmosphere.
- 6 The Amazon Rainforest is in providing clean, fresh air for the whole world.

After-Reading activities

5 **Think!** Explain how the Amazon Rainforest helps keep the levels of air pollution around the world down.

6 **Think!** Choose an alternative title for the text.

- A Living in the Wild
- B A Life-giving Forest
- C A Healthy Way of Living
- D Amazing Wildlife

Amazing Facts

Did you know?

During the times when there is not enough food, the 2) male in a group of capuchins always eats first.

Unlike most cats, jaguars like water and are quite good at 4)

It can take sloths up to a month to 6) the food they have eaten.

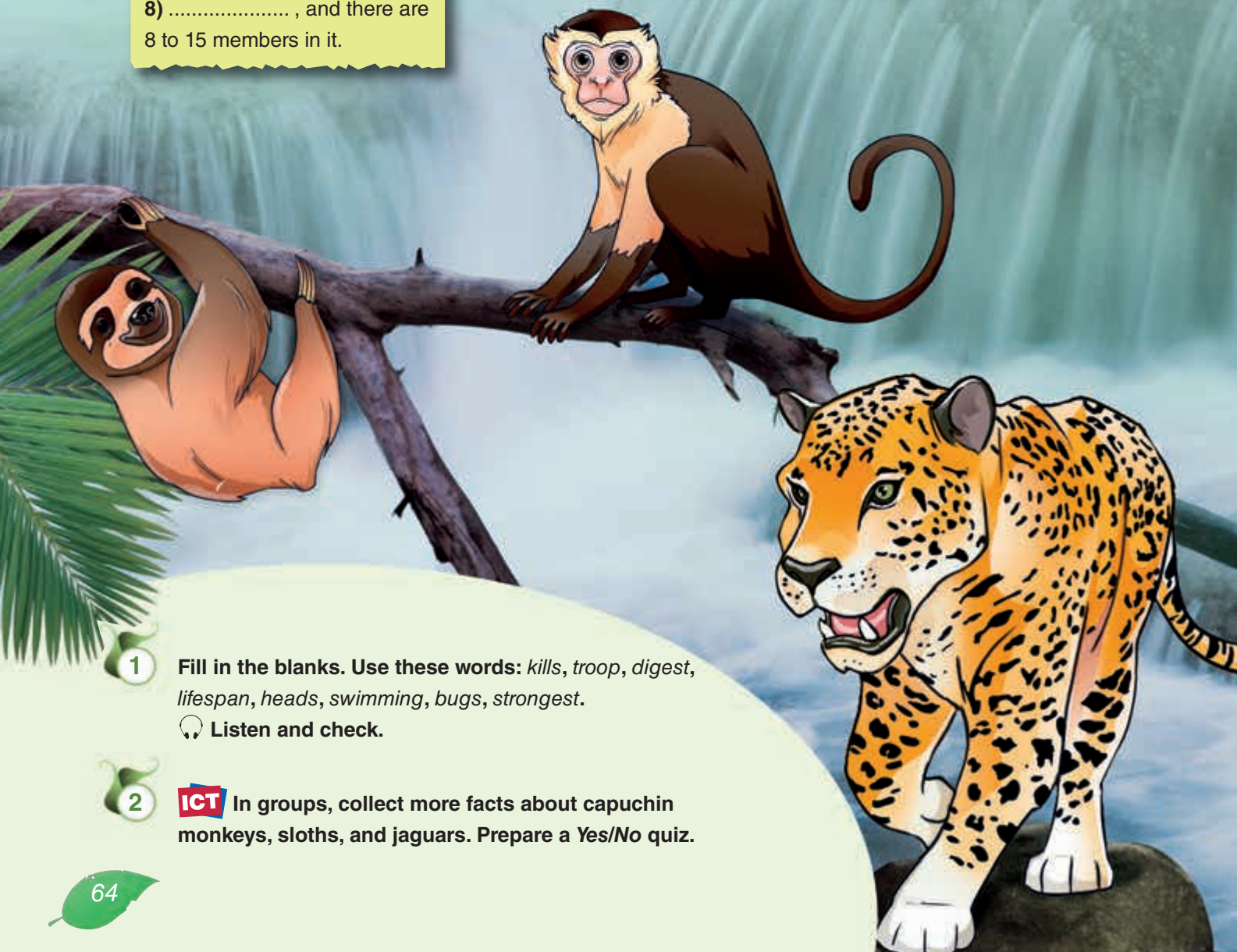
A group of monkeys is called a 8), and there are 8 to 15 members in it.

Capuchins crush up millipedes and rub them on their backs. This keeps 1) away.

The name “jaguar” comes from the Indian word *yaguar*, which means “he who 3) with one leap.”

Brown-throated sloths can turn their 5) about 300 degrees.

In the wild, the 7) of brown-throated sloths is typically between 30 and 40 years.



- 1 Fill in the blanks. Use these words: *kills, troop, digest, lifespan, heads, swimming, bugs, strongest*.
🔊 Listen and check.

- 2 **ICT** In groups, collect more facts about capuchin monkeys, sloths, and jaguars. Prepare a Yes/No quiz.

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