

Jane Cadwallader

The children of the Forests

illustrated by
Gustavo
Mazali

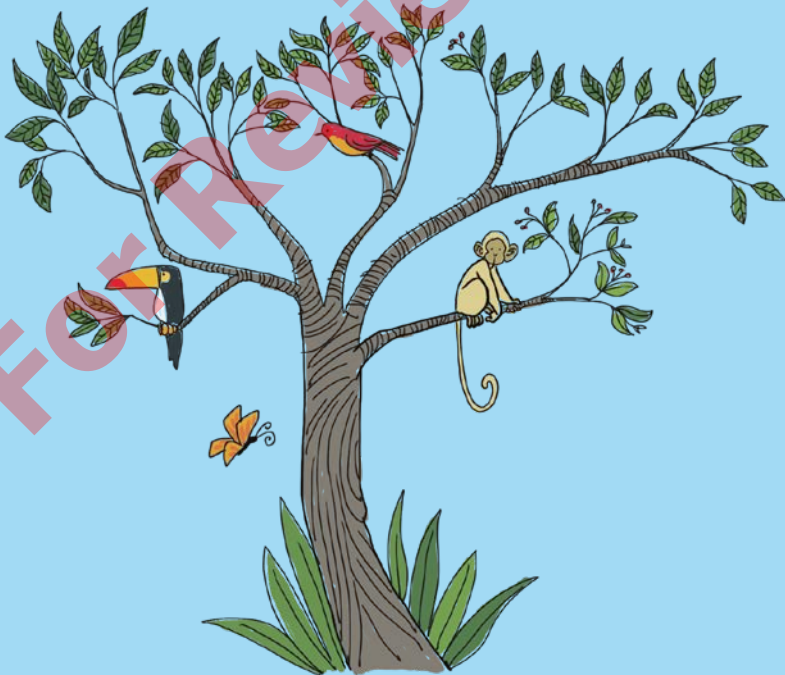
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YOUNG  READERS

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► 2 FORESTS AND US

Is there a forest or a wood near you? Do you know how forests help us? Here are some ways...
Forests clean the air and give us oxygen.
We need oxygen to live.



Forests give us water. The trees catch the rain and clean it before it goes under the ground.

Forests give us plants and animals. Many of the plants give us medicines and food. Nearly half of all the animals on Earth live in forests.



Forests are very beautiful too!

▶ 3

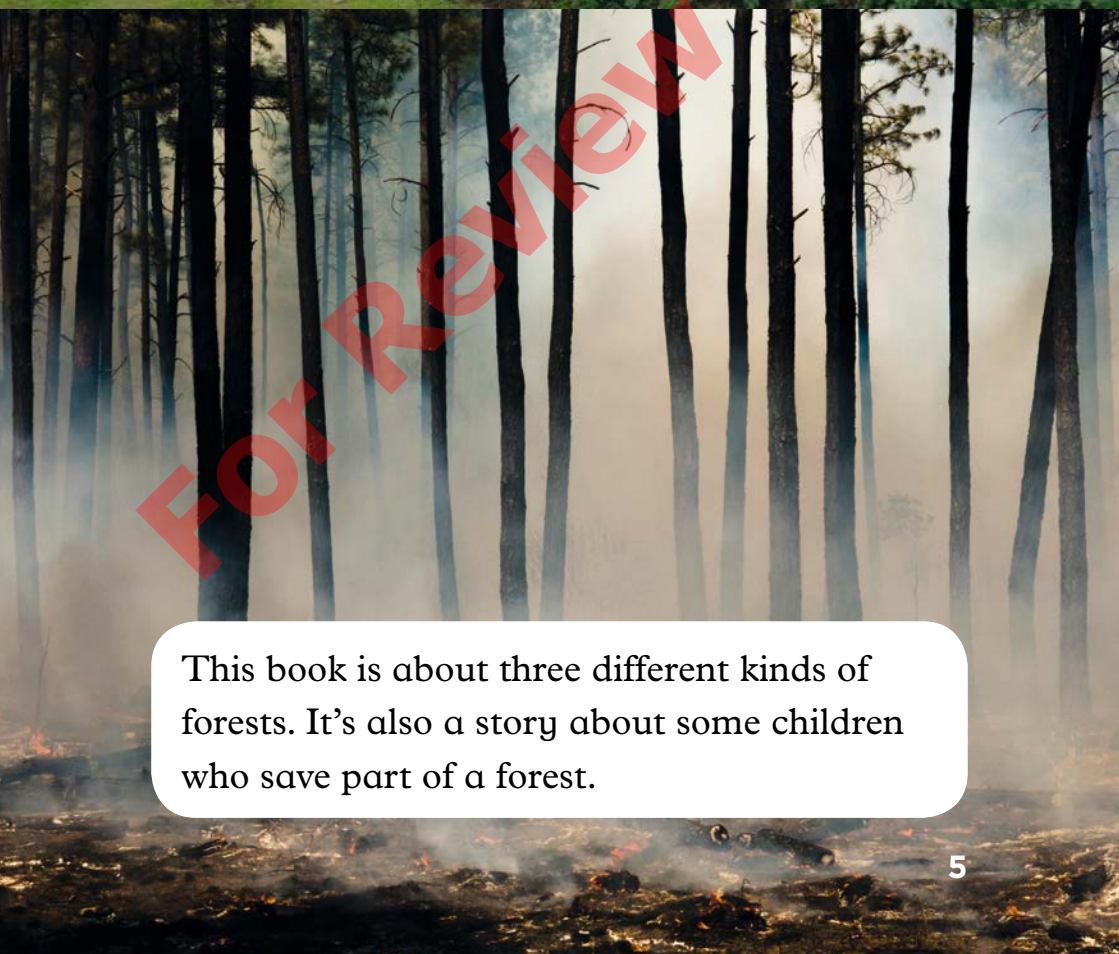
But now many of our forests are getting smaller. People have cut them down to make farms to grow soya or for cows. They have cut them down to build houses and factories and roads.



They have cut them down for firewood or to make furniture or paper but they haven't re-planted them. They have hunted animals, they have built mines that pollute the soil and they have built factories that pollute the air.



All these things are bad for our forests and, so, they are bad for the Earth and we must try to stop them and to look after our forests!

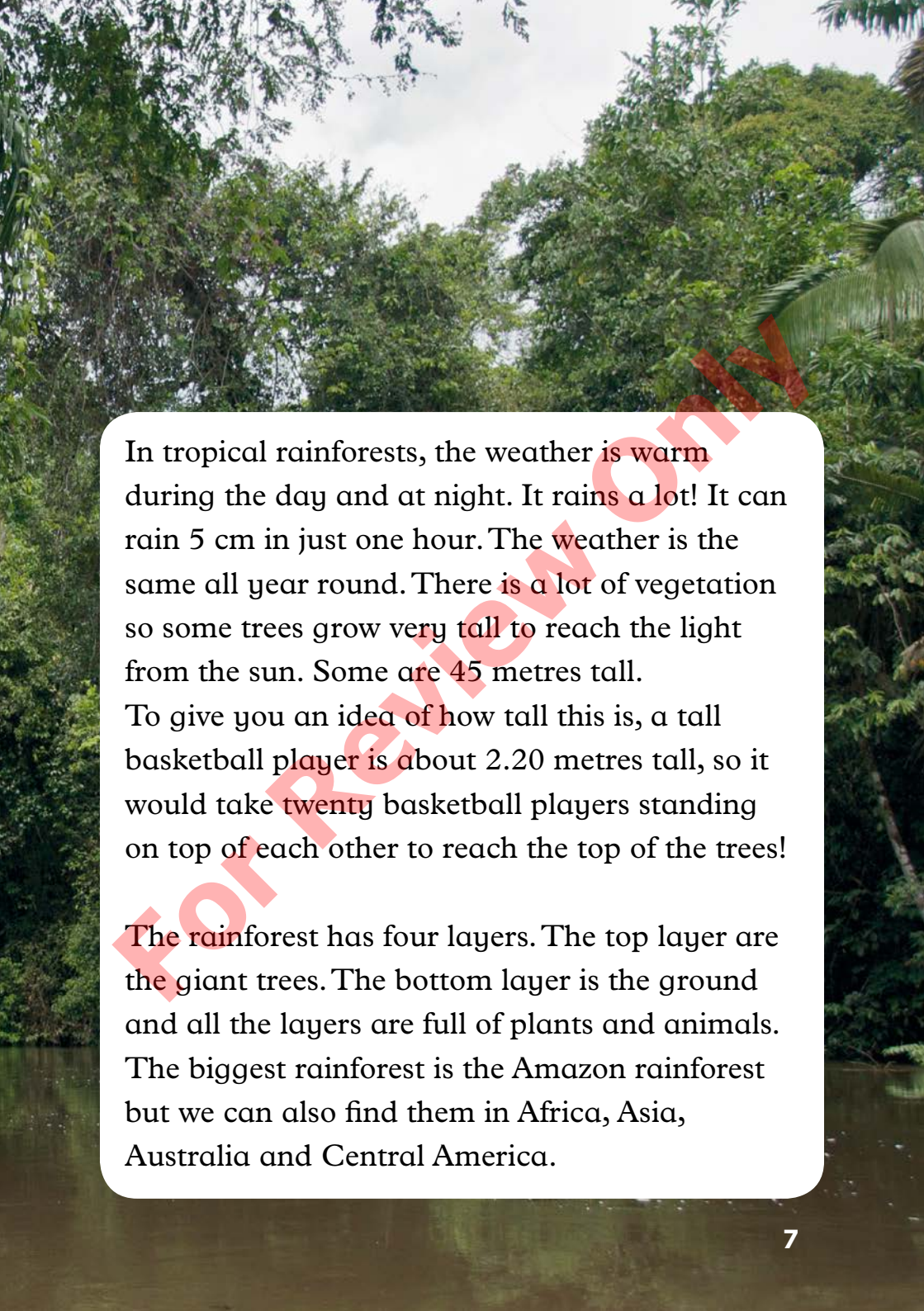


This book is about three different kinds of forests. It's also a story about some children who save part of a forest.

4 CHAPTER 1: Tropical rainforests

My name is Lucia and
this is my brother Shimpu.
We come from Peru and
this is our forest.





In tropical rainforests, the weather is warm during the day and at night. It rains a lot! It can rain 5 cm in just one hour. The weather is the same all year round. There is a lot of vegetation so some trees grow very tall to reach the light from the sun. Some are 45 metres tall.

To give you an idea of how tall this is, a tall basketball player is about 2.20 metres tall, so it would take twenty basketball players standing on top of each other to reach the top of the trees!

The rainforest has four layers. The top layer are the giant trees. The bottom layer is the ground and all the layers are full of plants and animals. The biggest rainforest is the Amazon rainforest but we can also find them in Africa, Asia, Australia and Central America.



Activity Pages



1 Think. Remember and make notes. Compare with a partner.



- 1 How many different things do forests give us?
- 2 In how many different ways are people destroying forests?

2 Correct the mistakes.

- 1 There are different seasons in a tropical forest and the weather changes.
- 2 Trees grow very tall because there is a lot of water.
- 3 There are more butterflies in Europe than in Peru.
- 4 Tropical rainforests don't have many animals.
- 5 Many animals that live here are quiet and have bright colours.



3 Fill the gaps.

There are 1 _____ seasons.

They are 2 _____, 3 _____, 4 _____

and 5 _____. In the 6 _____, it is very cold so some animals 7 _____, others 8 _____ and some animals, like the squirrel, collect a lot of 9 _____ to help them through the cold months.



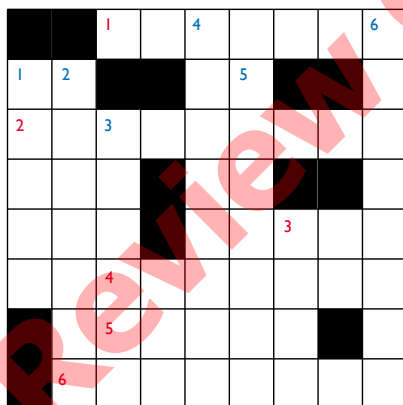
4 Read the clues and do the crossword. The number of letters for each word is given in brackets.

Across

- 1** This season is very long. (6)
- 2** In winter some animals do this. (9)
- 3** This is a night animal. (3)
- 4** You can find boreal forests in the north of this continent. (6)
- 5** The very cold weather means animals have to do this. (5)
- 6** A very big animal which does not live in forests. It has a trunk. (8)

Down

- 1** Summers in boreal forests are... (adjective) (5)
- 2** In winter, some animals do this. (7)
- 3** The coldest and driest kind of forest. (6)
- 4** The opposite pole to south. (5)
- 5** In winter, boreal forests are covered with it. (4)
- 6** These often grow on trees instead of leaves in a boreal forest. (7)



5 Write their names. Use a different colour according to where they live: blue for boreal, green for temperate and red for tropical.

