

## Animals in tropical rainforests

There are a huge number of different animals in tropical rainforests. You find large mammals there, such as monkeys and big cats. But the majority of animals are insects, such as ants and beetles. A scientist once found 50 different species of ants on a single tree in the rainforest of Peru. So many animals live in tropical rainforests because it is always warm there. Every day the temperature is 23 to 27 degrees Celsius. The animals also always have enough to drink, because it rains so much. Almost all animals in tropical rainforests have become specialized. They can live only on one tree or eat only one plant. They are then the only animal that eats this plant.

Let's take a careful look at two animals from tropical rainforests: the parrot and the sloth.

There are 330 different kinds of **parrots** and they live in tropical rainforests on all continents. They differ not only in the shapes of their bodies and their colors, but also in size. The smallest parrot is only 12 centimeters tall, and the biggest is about one meter. What all parrots have in common, though, is their curved beaks. They use their beaks to climb and as a tool, for example, to open the hard shells of seeds or to clean their feathers. Parrots' favorite foods are berries, small insects, seeds, fruit, and blossoms.



**Sloths** are about a half meter long and weigh four to nine kilograms. There are two different types: sloths with two toes and those with three toes. They live in the rainforests of Central and South America. The sloth got its name because it sleeps a lot, about 15 hours every day. In addition, sloths move very slowly. They move through the treetops as if in slow motion.

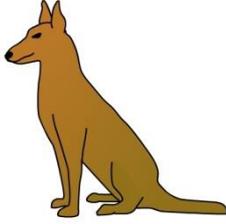
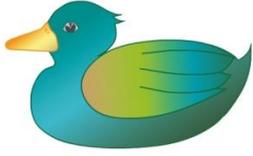
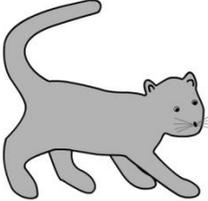
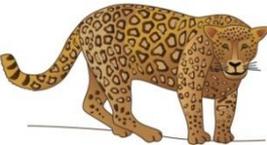
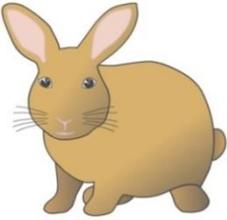
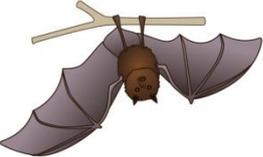
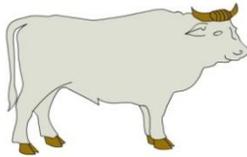
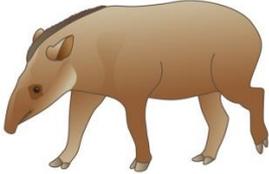
But precisely that is a good trick: Because sloths are so slow, their enemies do not see them. Sloths have long, curved claws, which make them good climbers. Their favorite foods are tender shoots, fruit, blossoms, and leaves. Their fur is something special. Butterflies and algae live in it!

**Assignments:**

- Carefully read the text and find out what parrots and sloths like to eat. Write down your answer.

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- Look up information, for example, in an animal encyclopedia, to find out which animals live in tropical rainforests and which do not. Cross out the animals that do not live in rainforests.

**For fast students:** Do you also know the names of the animals? Write the names of the animals in the space below each picture.