

The Race Across Anaconda Swamp



A Challenge Island
STEAM Adventure



BOOK COMPANION

**Aligned with Select K-12
NGSS, Common Core and
State Standards**

Sharon Duke Estroff and Joel Ross



The Race Across Anaconda Swamp



Meet the Characters!

Imagine that the characters in The Race Across Anaconda Swamp will be coming to visit your class. It is up to you to tell your classmates all about them. What adjectives describe each character's personality? What are their most important character traits? Choose describing words from the list below or think up some of your own. Finally, pick out a perfectly fitting welcome gift to hand each character as they arrive in your classroom.

Brave Creative Cautious Adventurous Curious Carefree Careful Inventive Dependable Smart Stubborn Helpful Mischievous Cooperative Mysterious Determined Energetic Calm Skillful Thoughtful Fun Friendly Nervous Wise Studious Trustworthy Lucky Loving Humble Imaginative Busy Silly Unique

Character	Character Traits	Welcome Gift
 <p>JOY</p>		
 <p>DANIEL</p>		
 <p>KIMANI</p>		
 <p>DAVINCI</p>		
 <p>BABY MONKEY</p>		



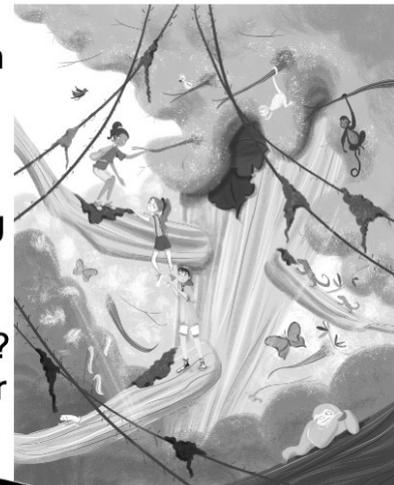
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Compare and Contrast



In Chapter 1, Daniel and Joy walk into an elevator in Joy's apartment building and walk out into the Amazon Rainforest. "Brilliant sunshine streams through" and there are "a thousand bright green leaves swaying in the breeze". The rainforest setting described in Chapter 2 is completely different than where Daniel and Joy live. How is the rainforest different from your home and yard? How is it similar? Use the Venn diagram to compare and contrast your home from the rainforest!



THE RAINFOREST

YOUR HOME

BOTH





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Research a Rainforest Animal!

Many wonderful **RAINFOREST ANIMALS** make an appearance in Chapter 3. Choose one or more of the animals listed below to investigate. Do research in the library or online to fill in the frames below. Share what you learn with your friends and family. Spreading the magic of the Rainforest animals is one of the most important things we can do to help protect them!

**Spider Monkey – Ocelot – Banana Spider – Red-Eyed Tree Frog – Poison Dart Frog
Jaguar – Toucan – Anaconda – Sloth – Okapi – Gorilla – Blue Morpho Butterfly – Parrot**

★
My Rainforest Animal is the

My Animal Lives on this Layer (circle one or more)
OVERSTORY
CANOPY
UNDERSTORY
FOREST FLOOR

My Rainforest Animal Looks Like This

Every Rainforest Animal has Adaptations that Helps it Survive. My Animal's Coolest Adaptions are:

My Animal's Favorite Meals are:

My Animal might become a meal to:

Here are a Few More Cool Facts about My Animal:

My Animal's Babies are Called:





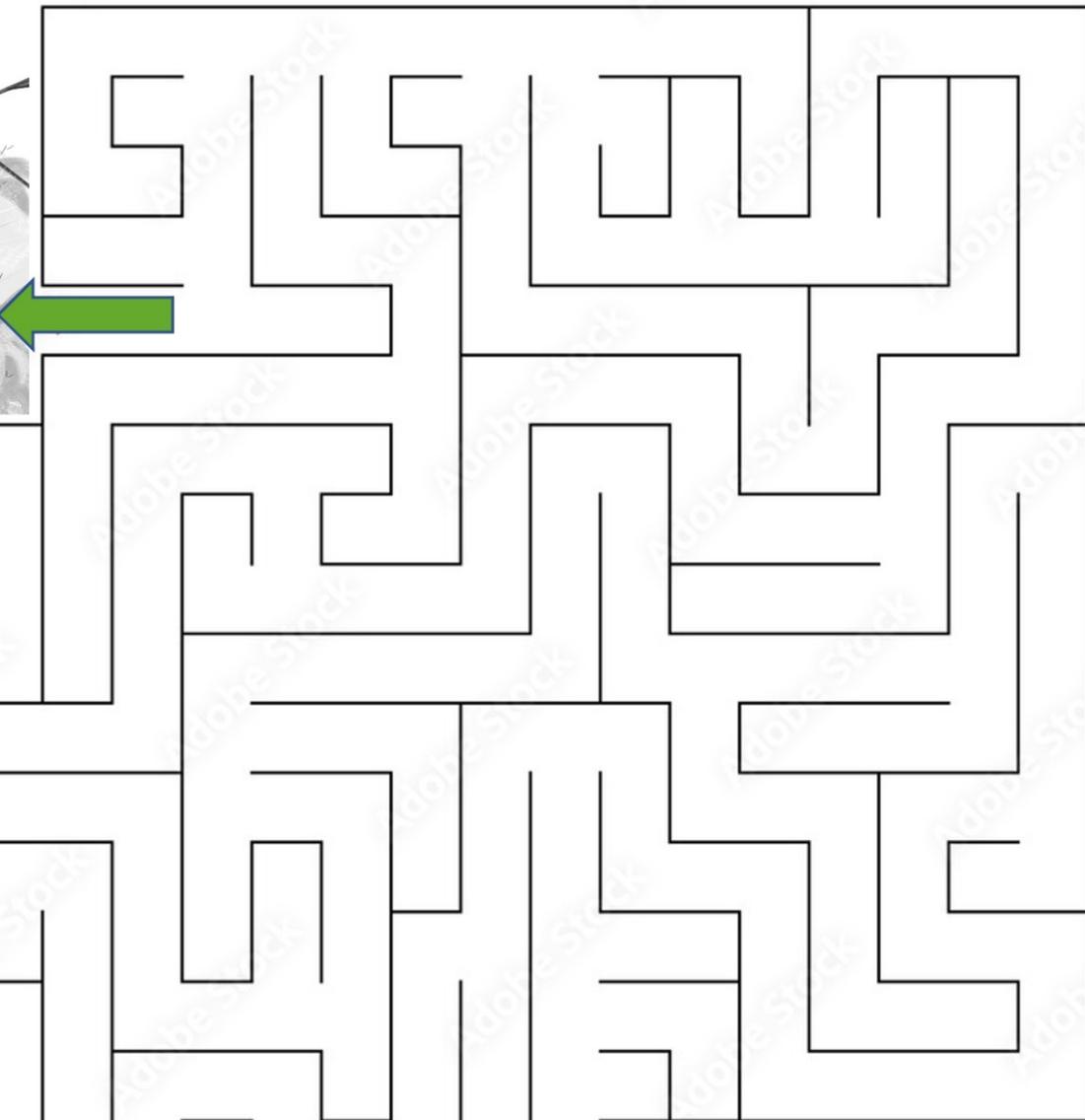
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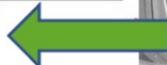
Can You Climb to the Top?

In Chapters 4, 5 and 6 the Challenge Island kids come face to face with the **Anaconda** on the Forest Floor for the very first time. They begin their climb to the **Overstory** 200 feet above. Can you snake your way through the maze from the Anaconda to the tippy top of the Amazon Rainforest?

Overstory



Forest Floor





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Friction Mission

In Chapter 9, the Challenge Island kids must fight the **Force of Friction** as they build their zipline. **Friction** creates resistance between surfaces. High friction makes it harder for something to move on a surface (think rubber tires on a dry road). Lower friction makes it easier for something to slip and slide across a

surface (silky socks on a freshly polished floor). Daniel, Joy and Kimani had to choose the supplies that would create the least friction so they could slide easily down the zipline. Will the following activities create high or low friction based on the surfaces that are rubbing together? Circle your answer. If you aren't sure, try them out for yourself! **Remember, the easier it is to move across, the lower the friction!**



Activity



Circle your answer

Erasing an answer on your math homework paper.	High Friction OR Low Friction
A hockey puck moving across a frozen ice rink.	High Friction OR Low Friction
Sliding down a playground slide while wearing a puffy winter coat.	High Friction OR Low Friction
Roller-skating on a shiny, wooden floor.	High Friction OR Low Friction
Pushing a big, heavy box across a rough sidewalk.	High Friction OR Low Friction
Skiing down a cold, snowy mountain.	High Friction OR Low Friction



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Rainforest Food Scavenger Hunt



In Chapters 11 and 12, the Challenge Island kids use Rainforest fruits that "smell like tropical candy" to help attract Baby Monkey to his swing. In fact, the Rainforest is packed with delicious smelling and tasting foods! Chances are that you have many Rainforest foods - or food made with Rainforest ingredients - in your kitchen at home. Look at the list of Rainforest foods and then go on a scavenger hunt at home to see how many of them you can find in your kitchen! Can you plan a whole Rainforest meal?



Rainforest Foods I Found in My Kitchen!

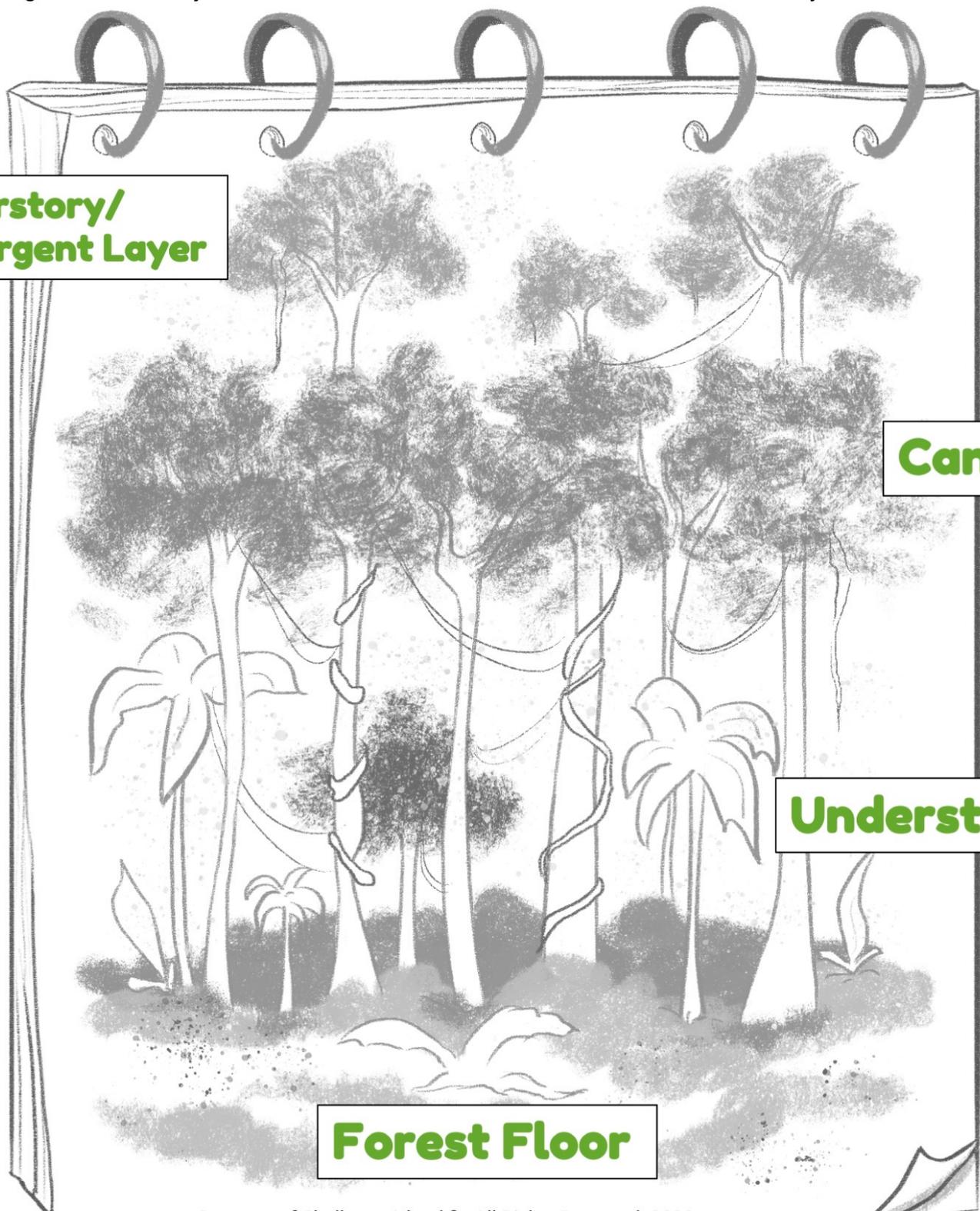


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Instructions: Cut out the Rainforest animals on the next page. Use Kimani's "Rainforest Stories" on pages 122 to 125 to figure out which layer each animal calls home. Glue the animals to the correct layers in Kimani's notebook.

The Race Across Anaconda Swamp (West Margin Press) is written by Sharon Duke Estroff and Joel Ross and illustrated by Mónica de Rivas



**Overstory/
Emergent Layer**

Canopy

Understory

Forest Floor



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Four Layers of Life

Instructions:

Cut out the Rainforest animals. Use Kimani's "Rainforest Stories" on pages 122 through 125 in The Race Across Anaconda Swamp to figure out which layer each animal calls home. Glue the animals to the correct layers in Kimani's notebook.



Ocelot



Red-Eyed Tree Frog



Blue Morpho Butterfly



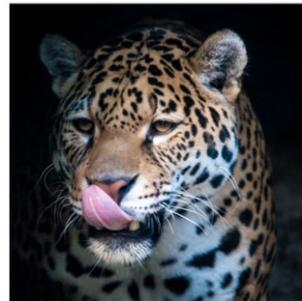
Pygmy Bat



Spider Monkey



Green Tree Python



Jaguar



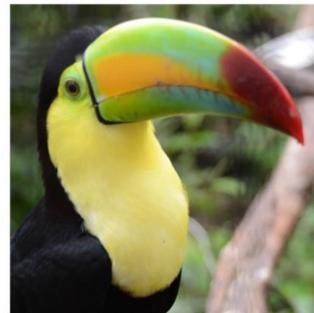
Sloth



Harpy Eagle



Army Ants

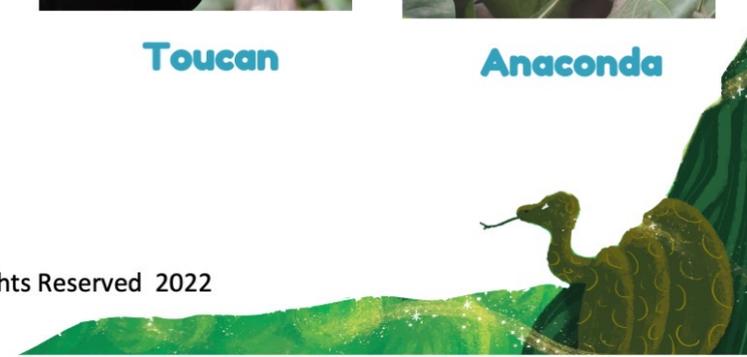


Toucan



Anaconda

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Every six seconds, a soccer-field sized area of tropical rainforest is destroyed. You can help by spreading the word about the amazingness of the rich, beautiful, life-filled biome. Create an acrostic poem to help spread the Rainforest magic with your classmates, friends and family!



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