

Exploring Nature's Short Answer Quiz

Read the Essay Online or Print it Out and Take the Short Answer Quiz

Reading Page

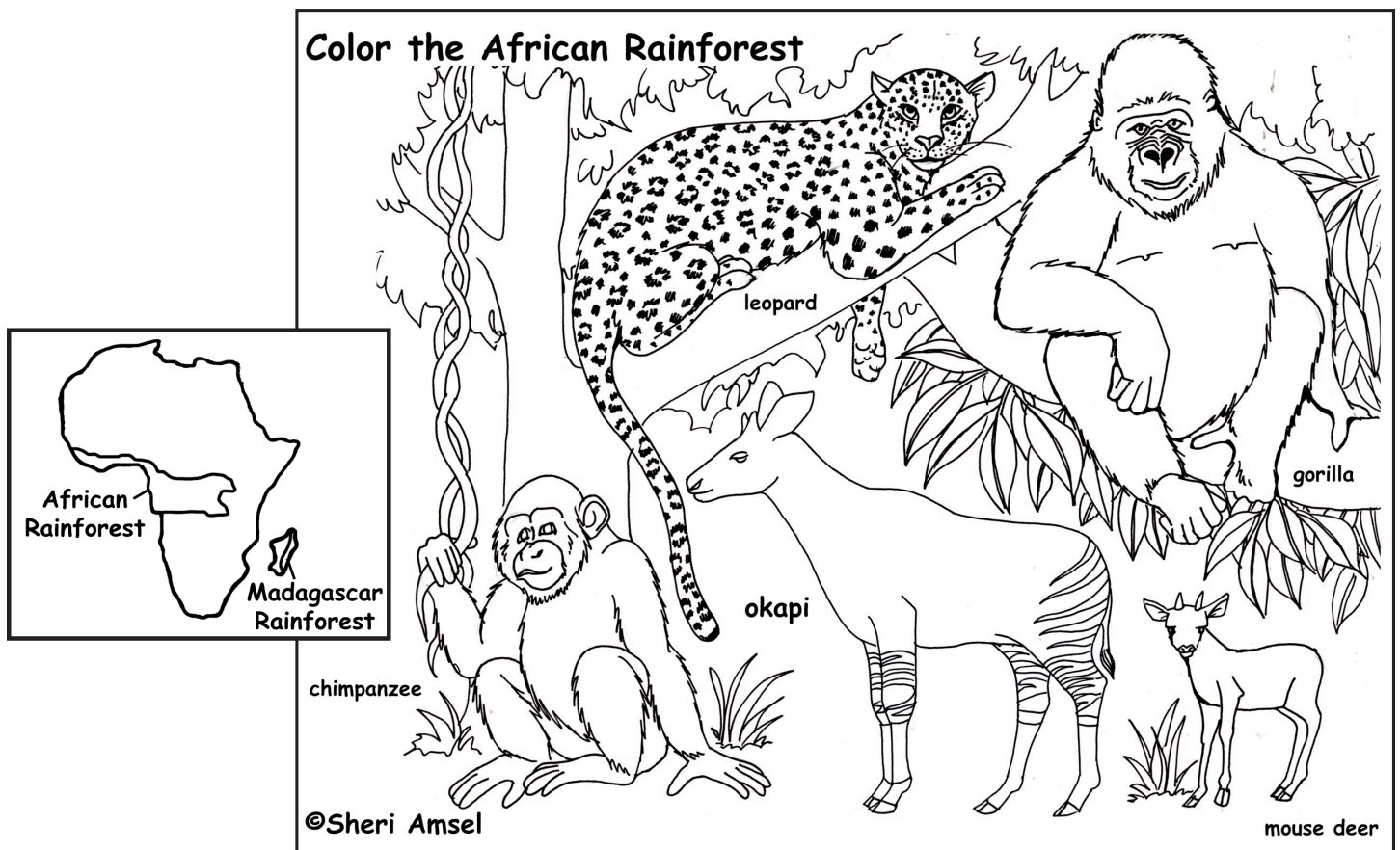
The African Rainforest

Range: Africa's rainforests are found mostly on the western coast of Africa and on the island of Madagascar.

Habitat: The tropical sun keeps the rainforest so hot that when the rains fall each day, the water evaporates into steam and keeps the forest dripping with water. This allows small animals to stay safely hidden in the treetops, eating leaves, fruits, and insects. They never have to risk a visit to the ground for water. Far below the thick tangle of trees it is dark and wet on the forest floor. Only small shafts of light filter down to reach the plants. Dead leaves and fruit pile up on the ground, rot, and release all their energy back to the forest soil.

Animals: Chimpanzees and gorillas are apes and feed in the trees, eating leaves and fruit. Colobus, Diana, and mangaby monkeys eat the many forest leaves. The golden potto, a small primate, hunts at night for fruit and insects. Flying squirrels glide through the trees. The strange pangolin hunts termites and ants high in the trees. Genets and civets are cat-like predators that hunt on the forest floor. The crowned eagle hunts from the air above. Strange okapis, a relative of the giraffe, and tiny duikers graze on stems and branches. The leopard watches for prey from a low branch. Tailor ants sew leaves together with silken threads to build their nests. Colorful butterflies gather in the mud on the forest floor to lap up the minerals they need.

Plants: Liana vines hang from the trees. Tree ferns stand 30 feet high. Yellowwood and bamboo grow thickly here. Many rare and beautiful orchids add color to the rain forest canopy.



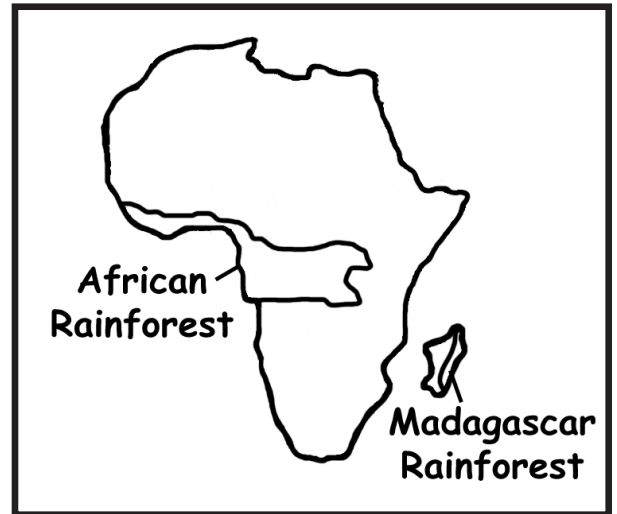
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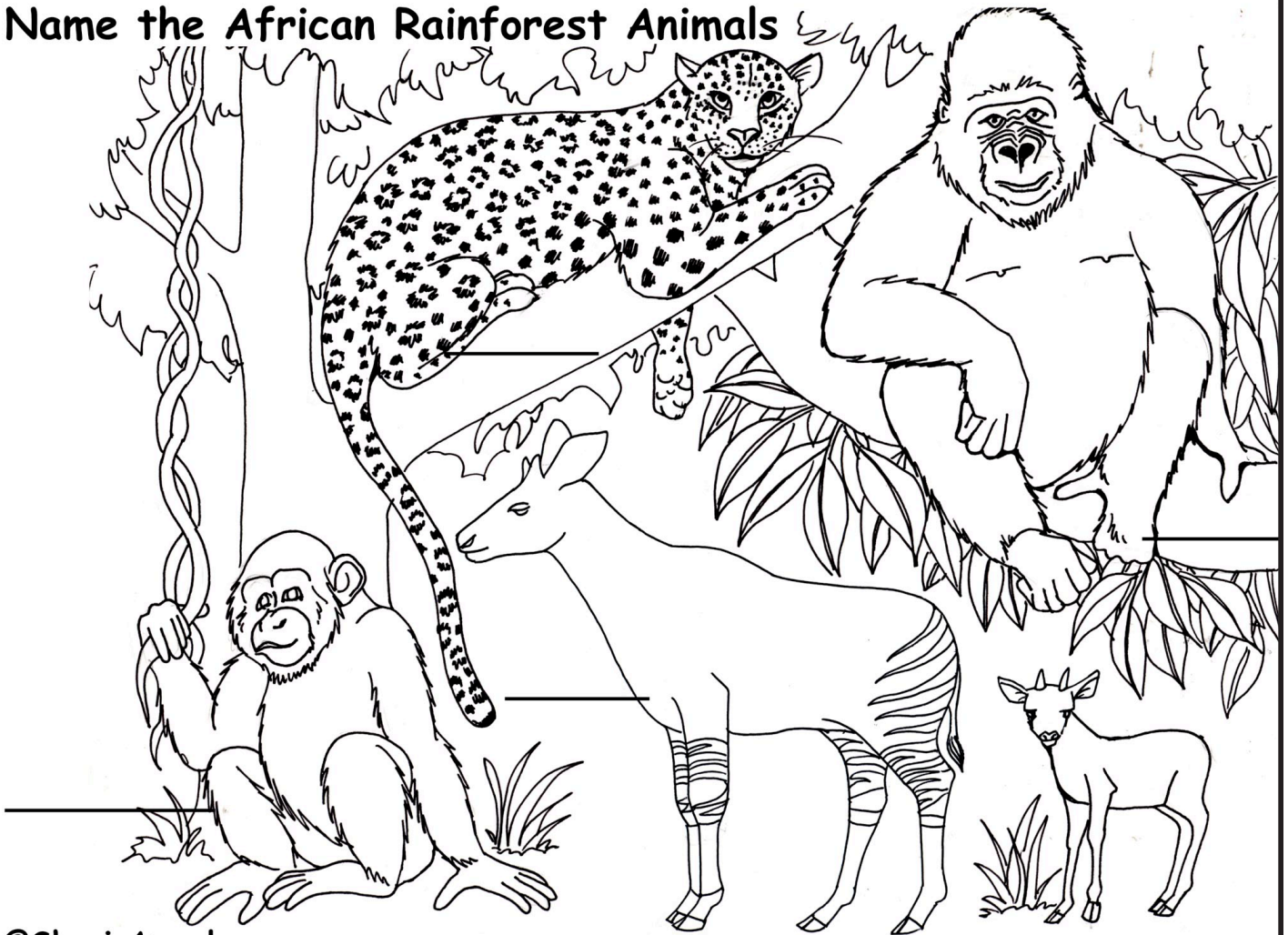
Short Answer Quiz

The African Rainforest

*Label the animals from the African Rainforest (below),
then color in the habitat on the map (right).*



Name the African Rainforest Animals



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Short Answer Quiz

The African Rainforest

From your reading, fill in the short answers about the African Rainforest (below).

Range: Africa's rainforests are found mostly on the _____ coast of Africa and on the island of _____.

Habitat: The tropical sun keeps the rainforest so hot that when the rains fall each day, the water evaporates into _____ and keeps the forest dripping with water. This allows small animals to stay safely hidden in the treetops, eating leaves, fruits, and insects. They never have to risk a visit to the ground for water. Far below the thick tangle of trees it is dark and wet on the forest floor. Only small shafts of light filter down to reach the plants. Dead leaves and fruit pile up on the ground, rot, and release all their energy back to the forest soil.

Animals: Chimpanzees and _____ are apes feed in the trees, eating leaves and fruit. Colobus, Diana, and mangaby _____ eat the many forest leaves. The golden potto, a small primate, hunts at night for fruit and insects. Flying _____ glide through the trees. The strange pangolin hunts termites and _____ high in the trees. Genets and civets are cat-like predators that hunt on the forest floor. The crowned _____ hunts from the air above. Strange okapis, a relative of the _____, and tiny duikers graze on stems and branches. The leopard watches for prey from a low branch. Tailor ants sew leaves together with silken threads to build their nests. Colorful _____ gather in the mud on the forest floor to lap up the minerals they need.

Plants: Liana vines hang from the trees. Tree _____ stand 30 feet high. Yellowwood and bamboo grow thickly here. Many rare and beautiful orchids add color to the rain forest canopy.