

HELP SAVE THE RAINFOREST

By Kelsie

Half the animal species in the world live in the rainforest. This includes lots of colorful birds. Lots of the birds live in the canopy. The canopy is like a blanket of leaves hundreds of feet above the ground. The canopy is like a roof. 1% of the water that falls from the sky reaches the forest floor. The rainforest gets 6-30 feet of rain a year. The Amazon River carries 2/3 of the world's fresh water.



People Facts

1. They paint themselves
2. They make most things out of plants
3. Some still do not go to school
4. They hunt every few days
5. They drain poison from plant roots and put them on arrows

Ocelots

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WHAT THEY LOOK LIKE

Ocelots are little leopard- looking cats. They have lots of spots on their golden fur. Their belly is white with fewer spots. Their spots are called rosettes. On their tail they have ringed markings. Ocelots are mammals. That means that they have hair, are warm blooded, and give birth to live babies. Full grown ocelots are only 3 ft. long. Ocelots got their name from the Aztecs. Their name means field tiger. Some people also call ocelots other names like tiger cat or leopard cat. They have thin bodies and short tails. Females can weigh 15-22 pounds and males can weigh 20-35 pounds. Females are normally smaller than males. Ocelots have long legs and are very good swimmers.

HABITAT

Ocelots live in the rain forests of Central America, South America and North America. Most ocelots live in the Amazon rain forest. Ocelots also live in grasslands, other forests, mountains and marshes. Ocelots have territory. To mark it they scratch on trees.

PREDATORS

Ocelots' predators can be humans. Hunters like to trap them and sell their furs. Hunters catch them because every ocelot has different patterns on their coat. It is against the law to hunt them in some countries.

ADAPTATIONS

Ocelots have big eyes so they can see well in dim light. They sleep in trees so predators can't get them. Ocelots can bring their claws in and out like house cats. This way they can run up trees very fast. Ocelots have special markings that help them blend into their surroundings.

FOOD AND HUNTING

Ocelots eat meat like small rodents, birds, mice, rats, baby monkeys, fish and turtles. Ocelots pluck birds before they eat them. When they pluck them it means that they pull all the feathers off before eating them. Ocelots hunt at night. This way they can sneak up on their prey better. Then they sleep during the day. They can climb up trees and catch prey within seconds. Their thin bodies make it easy for them to fit through small cracks. Ocelots are very quiet when they hunt. They pull their claws in and stand on a tree waiting for food to come by.

LIFE- CYCLE

Ocelots like to live alone. Females mate when they are 18 months old. They have babies until they are 13 years old. Males mate when they are 15 months old and have babies until they are 15 years old. Females mate every 4-6 months. When they are ready to mate they set off a special scent to attract the males. Males and females don't stay together for too long. Females try to find a hidden den to give birth to their babies. The den helps to hide the babies from predators. Cubs are born 70 days after birth. Females give birth to 1-3 cubs. Cubs look just like their parents from the very beginning. Mothers feed their cubs for 2 months and then let them out of the den so they can learn how to hunt. After 4 months the cubs are ready to be on their own.

FUN FACTS

Ocelots are endangered species. They are dying out from hunters and from losing their rainforest home.



Rainforest Haikus

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Ocelots

Ocelots live here
They roam the rainforest trees
They're losing their home

Morning Time

The mist is rising
The very slow sloth awakes
It's morning at last

Sloth

Sloths are very slow
They sleep 4/5 of their life
They eat plants in trees

Running from Predators

Leap from the tree tops
Running from his predators
Leap into that brush

Monkey

It is morning time
Look it's a red uakari
It's so pretty here

**YOU CAN BE A HERO.
YOU CAN SAVE THE RAINFOREST!**

- Use less wood from rainforest trees
- use less paper/adopt animals and trees
- recycle
- make stories to explain why we should help save the rainforest/educate others, spread the word
- try to eat local food and try not to eat food from the rainforest
- Join a group-like the kid action team!
- For more info go to:
www.ran.org or www.earth2kids.org



THE RAINFOREST IS ONE BIG ECOSYSTEM

The rainforest is one big ecosystem made of 4 layers: the emergent, canopy, understory and forest floor.
In each layer, the plants and animals have adapted to their place in the ecosystem.

