

Step into the
Forest

Howard Rice

TIME
FOR KIDS

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Forest

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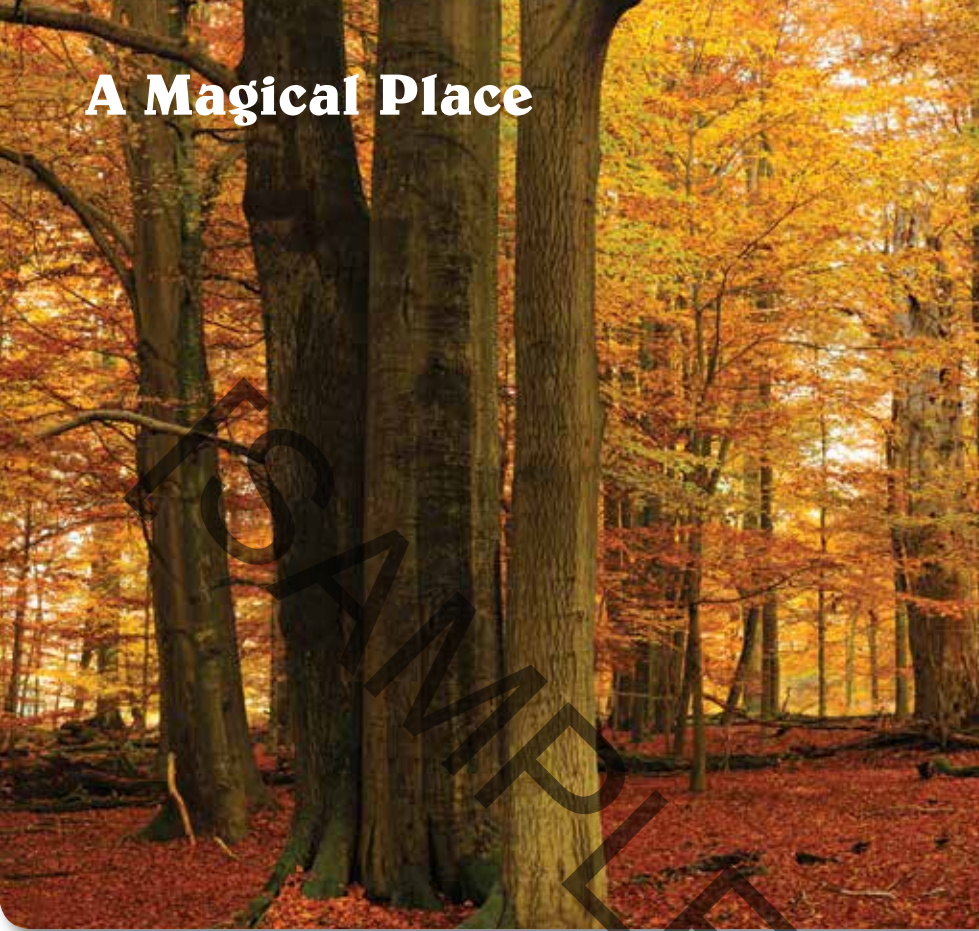
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A Magical Place



Leaves of all colors and shapes
crackle under your feet as you walk.
The crisp, blue sky peeks through
a blanket of branches above you.
Woodland animals scurry to their
nests and dens.



No wonder so many fairy tale characters live in the forest! The forest is a magical place.

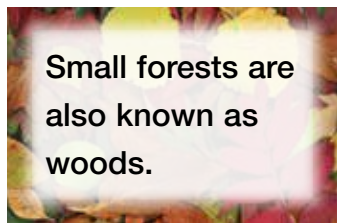
What Are Forests?



Forests are large areas of land covered with many trees and other plant life. In the forest, tall trees rise above plants that grow much closer to the forest floor.



Small forests are
also known as
woods.

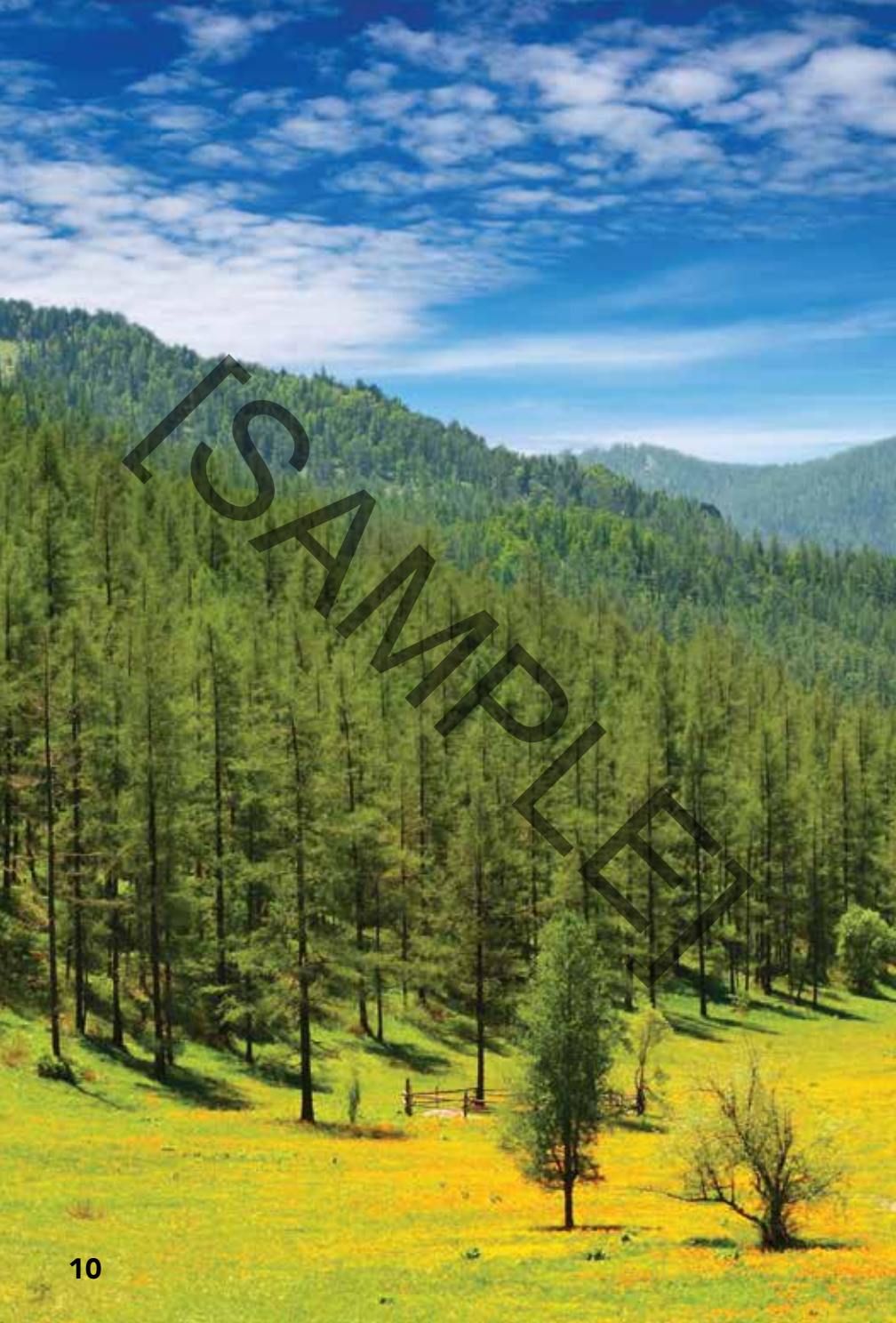




Did you know that there is more than one kind of forest?

Some forests have trees whose leaves change color in the **autumn**. By winter, most leaves fall to the ground. Then the trees rest until new leaves grow in the spring.

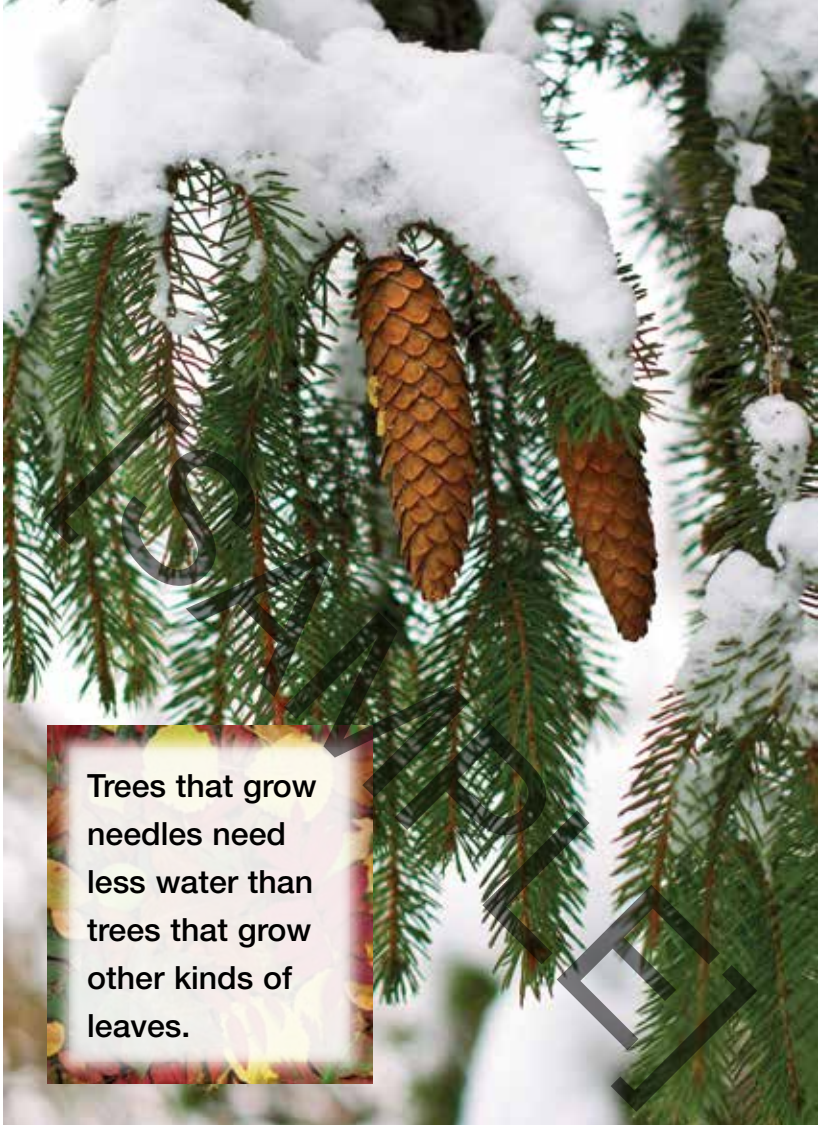






In other forests, **evergreen** trees grow. The leaves of most evergreen trees do not change color or fall away. These trees stay green all year long.





Trees that grow needles need less water than trees that grow other kinds of leaves.

Some evergreen trees have **needles** for leaves. They may also grow **cones**.

One pine tree
in California is
the oldest living
thing on Earth.
It is over 4,800
years old!



Cones have seeds
inside them to grow new
trees. But watch out!
Squirrels like to eat the
seeds before they have a
chance to grow.





Another kind of forest is called a **rainforest**. As you can guess, a rainforest gets a lot of water. Trees and plants there are very green and moist.



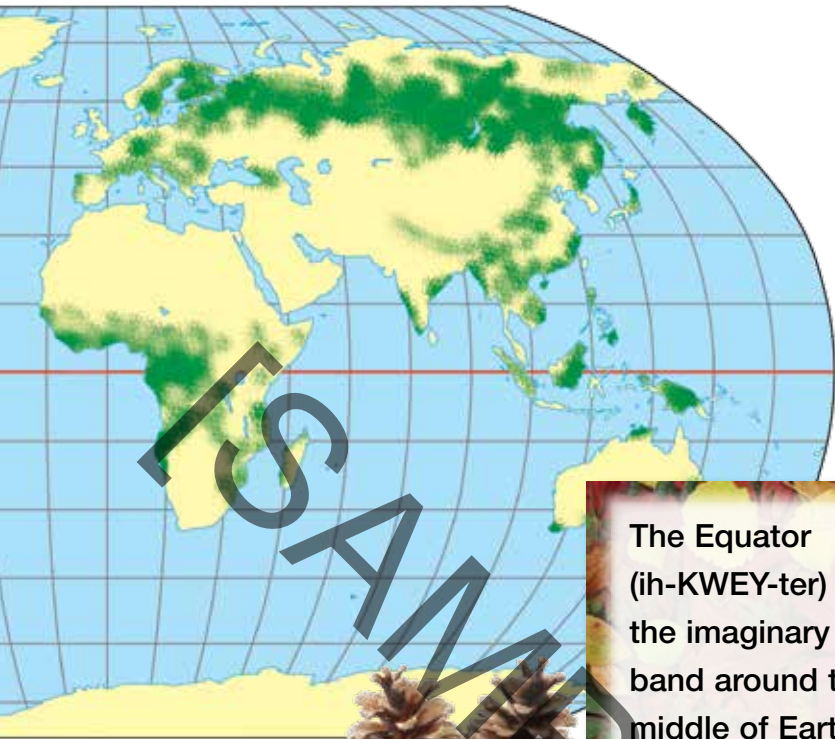
But not all rainforests get a lot of rain. Sometimes they get a lot of fog and moist air instead. The fog brings the water they need to help the trees grow.

Where Are They?



Forests can be found all over the world, but the kind of forest depends on where it is.

Forests that change color are found in many places, but mainly in the eastern United States, Canada, Europe, Russia, China, and Japan.



The Equator
(ih-KWEY-ter) is
the imaginary
band around the
middle of Earth.

Forests filled with cone and
needle trees are only in the north.

Many rainforests are near the
Equator. Other rainforests are near
coasts, mainly in the northwestern
United States.

Animals in the Forest

Different kinds of forests have different kinds of animals, too.



raccoon



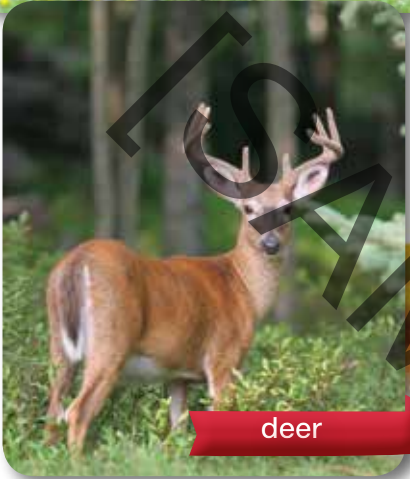
red fox



skunk



turkey



deer



black bear

In forests where the leaves change color and fall, you might see raccoons and squirrels hunting for nuts. You might see deer in a clearing or black bears peeking around trees. Foxes, turkeys, skunks, and rabbits may be nearby.



During the winter, these forests are much quieter. Many animals hibernate or go to warmer places when it gets cold.



hibernating dormouse



wolf



Great Grey owl



bobcat



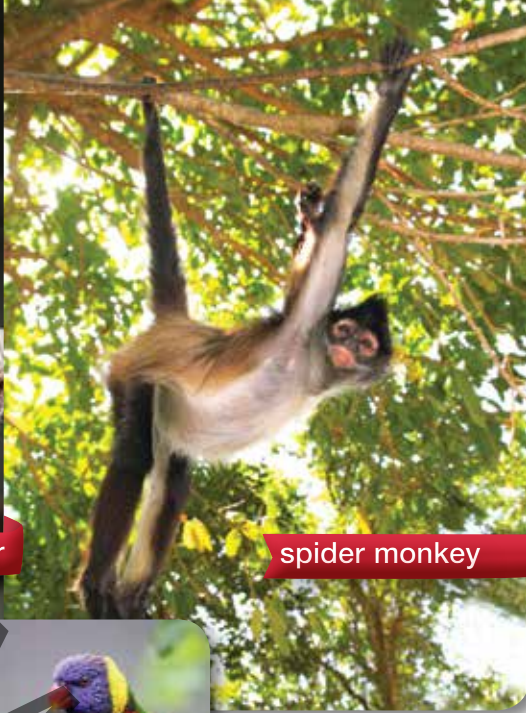
In the evergreen forests where
needles and cones grow on trees,
moose and wolves roam the land.
Beavers build their dams, and



Great Grey owls hoot from the trees.
If you look quickly, you might see a
bobcat running beneath the branches.



ring-tailed lemur



spider monkey



rainbow lorikeet

Animals live in rainforests, too. In fact, there are so many animals that the rainforest can be a very noisy place! Monkeys chatter as they swing from vines. Colorful

How many plants
and animals are
in the rainforests?
There are millions
of species!



tree frog

birds call to each other from the trees and sky. Bright green, red, and orange frogs croak as they hop along the ground.



poison dart frogs

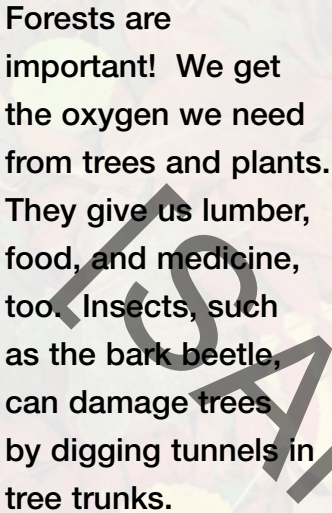
Dangers to the Forest



Forests are an important part of our world, but many things are a danger to them. Fires sometimes burn down forests as far as you can see. Insects and sickness can spread



tar spots



Forests are important! We get the oxygen we need from trees and plants. They give us lumber, food, and medicine, too. Insects, such as the bark beetle, can damage trees by digging tunnels in tree trunks.



bark beetle

through trees and kill them. Then animals die because they need the trees and plants to live.

We need our forests, so we must take care of them.

Glossary



autumn



cones



evergreen



needles



rainforest

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create a world in which
children love to learn!**