

Australian rainforests



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FACT SHEET 1

- Millions of years ago rainforests were found all over Australia because the climate was warm and wet.
- Today rainforests are found only in eastern Australia and the Northern Territory because the rest of Australia is now too dry.
- Australia has different types of rainforest which grow in different conditions. But they all need plenty of rain.



- Tropical rainforest grows in north-east Queensland, where it is hot and wet.



- Subtropical rainforest grows in south-east Queensland and New South Wales on rich soils where it is warm and wet.



- Warm temperate rainforest grows in New South Wales on poorer soils where it is warm and wet.



- Cool temperate rainforest grows where it is cool and wet, in New South Wales, Victoria and Tasmania



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FACT SHEET 2

Rainforests are special places because they provide a home for thousands of native plants and animals.

When you visit a rainforest try to be quiet and listen to the many sounds you hear. Stop, listen and look very carefully. You might see some of these animals.

FACT SHEET 2 (CONTINUED)

Brush turkey

‘From a mound of leaves I make my nest.
For this the forest floor is best.’



FACT SHEET 2 (CONTINUED)

Goanna

'I dig my burrow in earth and sand.
I am found in most parts of the land.'



FACT SHEET 2 (CONTINUED)

Python

‘I sleep all day and hunt all night.
When I catch my prey I squeeze it tight.’



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FACT SHEET 2 (CONTINUED)

In rainforest you will usually find a creek or stream. In the water you may see an eel, some fish or a freshwater crayfish.

FACT SHEET 2 (CONTINUED)

Bearded dragon

‘I may look fierce but I am shy.
I’ll jump in the creek if you come by.’



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FACT SHEET 2 (CONTINUED)

Don't forget to look up to see who lives high in the trees. There are catbirds and fruit doves and some animals as well. Write your own poem for the:

FACT SHEET 2 (CONTINUED)

Grey headed flying fox

'I hang upside down with the greatest of ease
My job is to pollinate rainforest trees.'



FACT SHEET 2 (CONTINUED)

Green tree frog

‘On shiny wet leaves I never will slip.
For my toes are fitted with a non-slip grip.’



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FACT SHEET 3



- Rainforests are different from other Australian forests. The tree branches meet overhead forming a roof. This is called a canopy.
- The canopy protects all the plants and animals from the hot sun, wind and storms and keeps the inside of the rainforest from drying out.
- Many rainforest plants and animals cannot live outside the rainforest. If we do not protect our rainforests these plants and animals will not have anywhere to live.
- Many useful foods and medicines have been developed from rainforest plants.

FACT SHEET 4

The dinosaur tree

- Special rainforest trees which grow at Sea Acres Nature Reserve are the Bolwarra trees. 140 million years ago when dinosaurs roamed the world the same kind of trees grew in the rainforest.
- Some of the plant-eating dinosaurs ate the Bolwarra trees.
- Aboriginal people also ate the fruit and say it tastes like a hazelnut.
- If you visit Sea Acres ask a guide to show you the ‘dinosaur’ trees.



Bolwarra flower



Bolwarra fruit

