

Who lives in the Amazon?

Did you know that the Amazon rainforest has the biggest collection of plants and animal species in the whole world?! One in five of all the fish and the bird species in the world lives in the forests and rivers in the Amazon!

Let's meet some of the insects that live there...

If you want to find out more, why not visit some of these websites which have loads of information about the Amazon rainforest:

<https://www.rainforest-alliance.org>

<https://www.worldwildlife.org>

<http://kinooze.com/amazon-wildlife/>





NAME: Goliath Bird Eating Spider

AGE: 3-6 years for males, 15-20 years for females

DESCRIPTION: Brown hair with dark stripes on their legs

LIKES TO EAT: Mainly insects but can also eat rodents, snakes, bats and small birds

BEHAVIOUR: They live in burrows that they dig or that other animals have left behind.

INTERESTING FACTS: They are the second largest spider in the world. They can make a type of hissing noise by rubbing their legs together.



NAME: Rhinoceros Beetle

AGE: One to two years

DESCRIPTION: Black shiny body and long rhino-like horns with two sets of wings

LIKES TO EAT: Rotting fruits, tree sap, and wood from decaying trees.

BEHAVIOUR: They are nocturnal, sheltering under leaves and logs in the day

INTERESTING FACTS: The horns of the males are used for fighting to protect itself and food sources. When this beetle is stressed it lets you know by giving out a loud hiss.



NAME: Blue Morpho Butterfly.

AGE: 115 days

DESCRIPTION: Bright blue colouring on very large wings of up to 20cm long

LIKES TO EAT: They drink the juices of rotting fruit

BEHAVIOUR: These butterflies are most active when the sun is shining..

INTERESTING FACTS: Only the males are blue. They drink using their *proboscis* which is a long mouth part (a bit like a straw) which lets them suck up the juice from fruits.



NAME: Leafcutter ants

AGE: Three to five weeks

DESCRIPTION: Brown shiny bodies with large jaws

LIKES TO EAT: They use the leaves they collect to grow fungus in their nests which they then eat

BEHAVIOUR: They use their large jaws to cut up leaves to carry the pieces back to their nest.

INTERESTING FACTS: They are able to carry things in their jaws that are up to 50 times heavier than they are! They can easily be spotted by the long lines they create as they carry their leafy supplies as these lines can be up to 30 metres long!