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STUDY NOTES

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**SCIENCE**

**LESSON-07**

**CHAPTER: Weather, Climate and Animal Adaptation**

**Today's Topic: Tropical rainforests**

Camouflage also works in reverse, helping predators, such as boa constrictors, sneak up on unsuspecting animals. A coiled boa constrictor remains almost completely invisible on any of leaf litter on the forest floor and can attack on a prey that comes too close. The stripes of the tiger help it to blend in with the foliage in the forest.

As there is stiff competition for food, many animals that live in rainforests adapt themselves to eating a specific food, which few other species are able to eat.

For example, toucans and parrots have large beaks, which give them a great advantage over other birds with smaller beaks. With their large beaks, these birds can easily crack open the hard shell of fruits and nuts from many trees that other birds or animals cannot easily do.

Many interesting animals are found in the tropical rainforests of India. The lion-tailed macaque, named for its lion-like tail, lives in the rainforests of the Western Ghats. This is the only species of

macaque that prefers to spend its time on tree tops. It usually lives in evergreen trees in mature forests.

Its most outstanding feature is the silver-white mane that surrounds its head and cheeks, running down to its chin. It feeds mainly on fruits, but also eats seeds, young leaves, stems, flowers and buds. Since it is able to get sufficient food on the trees, it rarely comes down on the ground.

The elephant is another well-known animal in Indian tropical rainforests that has adapted to the conditions of rainforests in many remarkable ways. To stay comfortable in the heat, an elephant has large ears which it flaps to create a cooling effect. Its tusks are modified teeth designed to tear the bark of trees that it loves to eat.

The large molars in the elephant's mouth are used chewing and grinding very fibrous plant materials, which are its diet. An elephant's trunk has many uses including picking up food, drinking water and communicating with other elephants. Elephants also have very low-pitched sounds that allow them to communicate with each other in dense forests.

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