

# The Magic and Mystery of Trees

By Jen Green

## Tree Habitats





Trees aren't that fussy about where they live. All they need is sunshine, water and a little soil in which to spread their roots. That's why forests are found all over the world, and why such an amazing array of animal and plant life is found within their depths.





Trees are tough survivors. Scattered trees can take root on steep, stony mountains. They cling to life on storm-battered coasts and survive howling winds in the snow tundra. They survive on the edges of dusty deserts and on busy streets in city centres. In fact, trees can get by almost anywhere.





This edition of The Magic and Mystery of Trees explores habitats the world over. Read on to discover how trees provide a home for an incredible variety of mammals, birds, insects and fish.





# Tree Homes





Let's take a look at how a great big oak tree is home to lots of creatures. From the topmost branches to the deepest roots, animals and plants live side by side, just like people in a block of flats.







## Tuck In!

An old tree like this provides food for everyone – a bit like a natural supermarket.







Herbivores, such as insects, birds and deer, munch on every part of the tree. They nibble on its leaves, buds, fruits and even bark.







Carnivores, such as owls and bats are keeping a look out for small animals and insects to hunt.



Big-Eared Bat



Eagle Owl

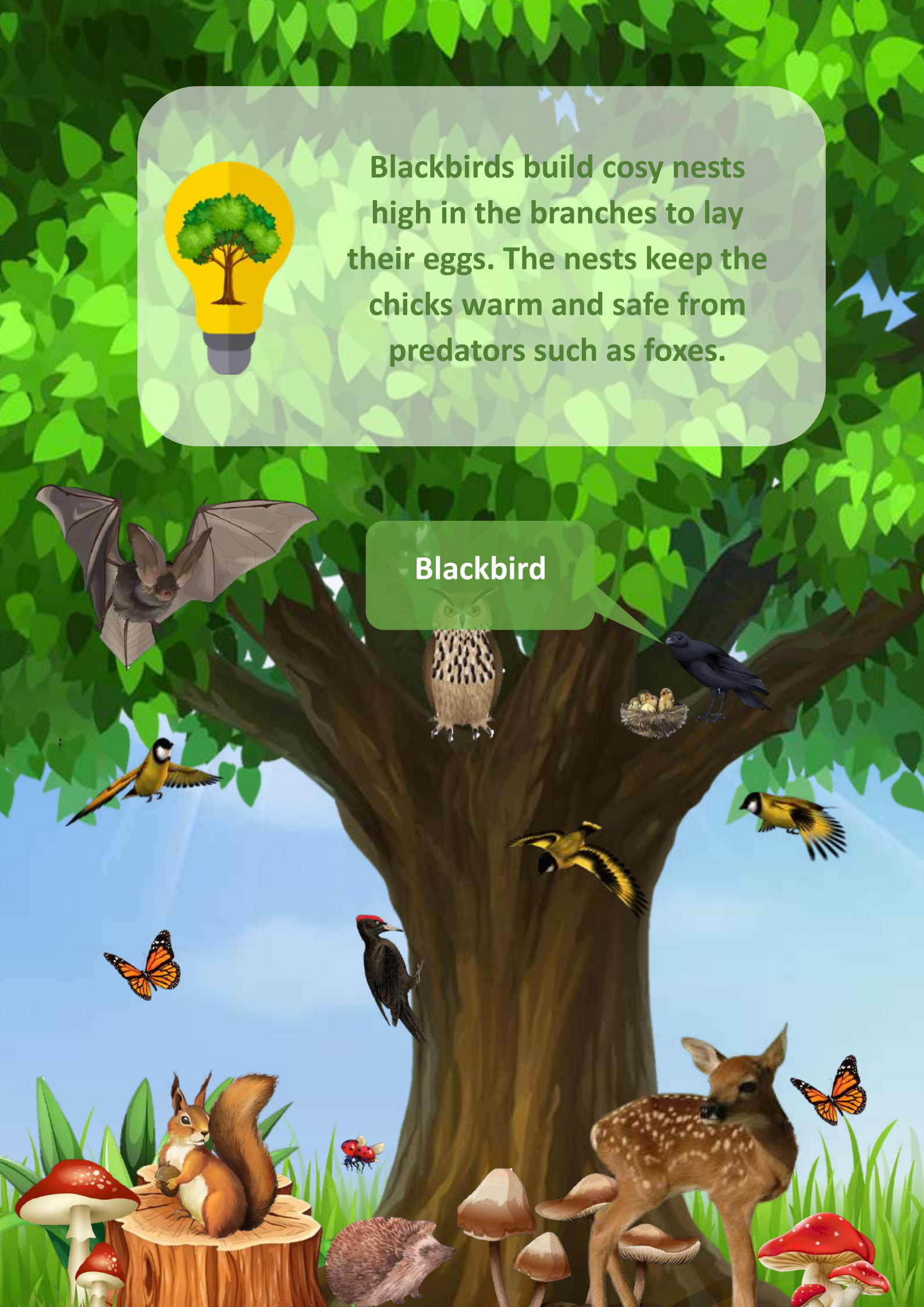






Blackbirds build cosy nests high in the branches to lay their eggs. The nests keep the chicks warm and safe from predators such as foxes.

## Blackbird







This woodpecker taps the bark with its super-sharp beak to dig out juicy grubs. Then it slurps up the insects with its sticky tongue.

Woodpecker







Below ground, in the tree's basement, worms, beetles and fungi feast among the roots.

Foxes use their sharp claws to dig snug dens among the tree's roots.





# Tropical Rainforest





The steamy Amazon rainforest is home to more living things than any other place in the world. A small patch of rainforest can contain hundreds of types of trees.







## Emergent

Tall trees called emergent poke their heads above the forest canopy. They can enjoy the sun without having to compete with other trees for light.

Kapok trees are common in the rainforest. They can grow up to 70 m (230 feet) tall.





## Canopy

Rainforest trees love the hot, steamy weather. They grow tall, creating a dense and shady roof.



**Crimson  
Macaw**



**Bold Beaks**  
Toucans have brightly-coloured beaks up to 19 cm (7.5 inches) long.



**Two-Toed  
Sloth**







## Understorey


The understorey is dim because the canopy above blocks most of the light.



Pygmy  
Marmoset



Long Limbs  
Spider monkeys  
swing through the  
trees using their  
long arms, legs  
and tails.



At home on a tree-  
Epiphytes are plants  
that grow on other  
plants. Rainforest  
trees support many  
epiphytes.



Green Vine  
Snake







## Forest Floor

The ground level in a rainforest is dark and dry because the higher levels absorb almost all the light and rain.



## Stealthy Cat

The jaguar's spots hide it among the speckled shadows of the leaves above. It slinks through the trees as it hunts.



Giant  
Anteater



Tarantula



Anaconda





# Temperate Rainforest





Unlike tropical forests, temperate rainforests grow in areas of mild weather, where it is neither too hot nor too cold. Many of the trees are conifers. This misty forest is home to lots of animals that like to keep cool.





## Big Cats

Pumas are large cats that silently slink through the forest. They pounce on animals as large as deer, and kill them by biting on their necks.

## River Beavers

Beavers build dams across forest streams. They gnaw through saplings (young trees) with their sharp front teeth. Timber! The tree crashes down to become part of the dam.



## Tree Frog





## Gentle Giants

Moose are the largest type of deer. Males have huge antlers. They glide among the trees, munching ferns, grass, twigs and tree bark.

## Raccoons

This scrappy mammal has a broad back stripe across its eyes, like a bandit's mask. It acts like a bandit too, raiding birds' nests to steal eggs.



## Chipmunk





The world's largest temperate rainforest grows along the west coast of North America. It is made up mostly of conifers, including the tallest trees in the world, giant redwoods. The trees grow so well because they have plenty of water. The rain is heaviest in winter but in the summer months thick, damp fogs roll in from the ocean.





# Swamp Forest





In the hot and humid swamp, unusual trees called mangroves grow in slow-moving, murky water. In this coastal, tropical forest, the trees are washed twice a day by salty tides.





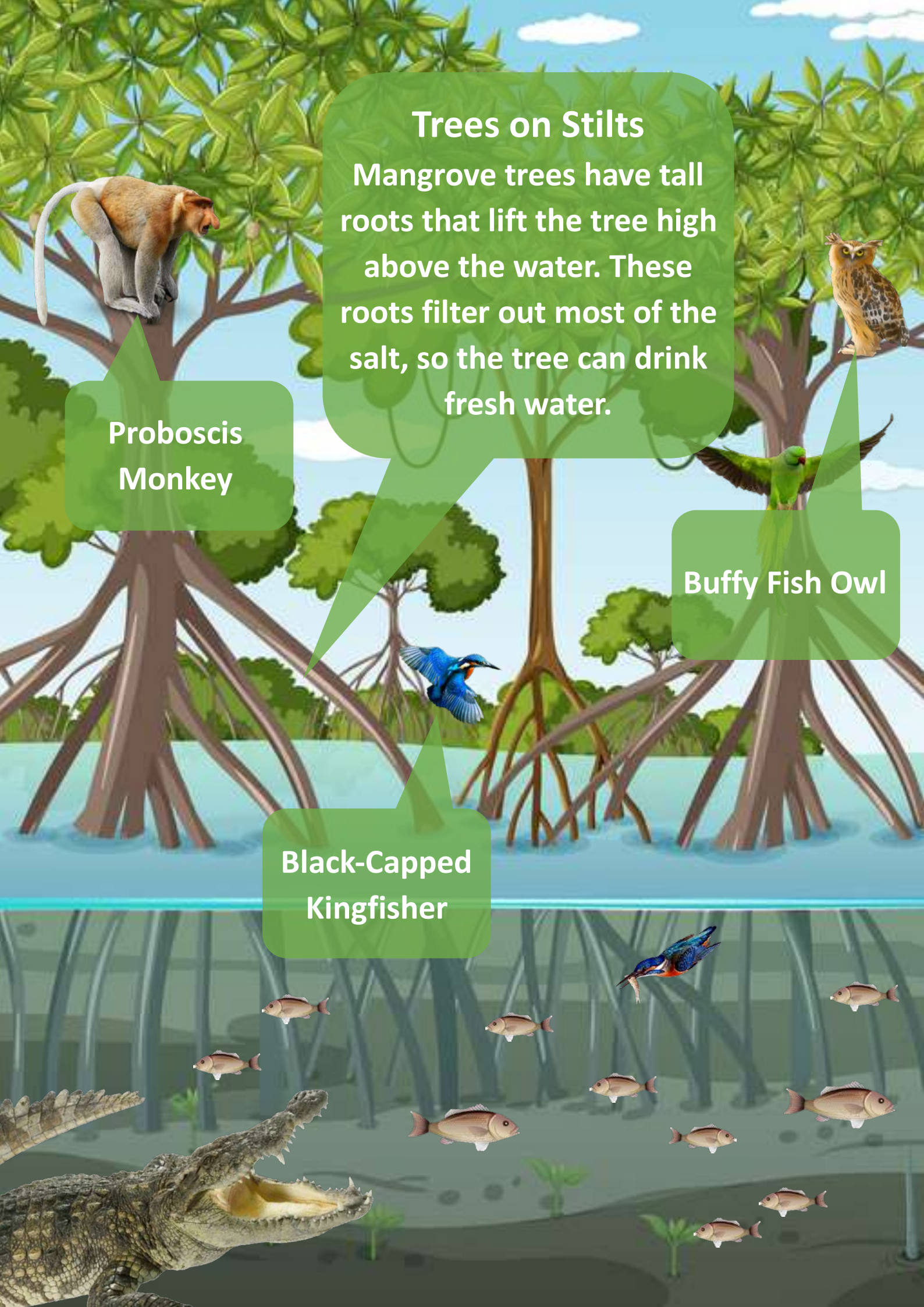
## Trees on Stilts

Mangrove trees have tall roots that lift the tree high above the water. These roots filter out most of the salt, so the tree can drink fresh water.

Proboscis  
Monkey

Buffy Fish Owl

Black-Capped  
Kingfisher







The saltwater crocodile lurks in gloom, waiting for prey. The muddy water around the mangrove roots is the perfect hiding place for the world's largest reptile.

The mangrove's roots poke into the mud and slow down the water. This stops the coast from eroding (wearing away) over time.



Many fish hide among the roots






The Bengal tiger prowls the swamp in search of deer. Its striped coat provides the perfect camouflage in the tall reeds at the water's edge.







**The Sundarbans in  
Bangladesh is the  
world's largest  
mangrove forest.**





# Snow Forest





The dense, dark, taiga forest is covered with snow in winter. It grows across Canada, Russia and northern Europe, wrapping itself around the world like an enormous green scarf.





A ghostly great grey owl flies silently above the frost, keeping an eye out for signs of prey on the ground below.




Reindeer spend the winter in these sheltered forests, eating lichen from the branches and underneath the snow.




Mountain Hare





A brown bear with thick, shaggy fur stands on a rocky path in a forest. It is looking directly at the viewer.

Bears use their sharp claws to climb trees and get a bees' nests. The bear breaks open the nest and slurps the honey.

A male moose with large, velvet-covered antlers stands in a forest. It is looking towards the left.

The male moose had huge, branching antlers, which it likes to scratch against trees.



The background is a detailed painting of a winter forest. In the foreground, a grey wolf is walking through a snowy field with small tufts of grass. The middle ground is filled with snow-covered evergreen trees, and the background shows more trees under a soft, hazy sky. Two green speech bubbles are overlaid on the image, containing text about the taiga and its climate.

## Cool Conifers

The taiga is mostly made up of conifers such as spruce and fir. Conifers' pointy shape and way needle-like leaves help them to shed the heavy snow.

## White World

Northern forests have short, cool summers and long, harsh winters. Snow often covers the ground for months on end.





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