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How do toucan adapt to the rainforest

Tropical Rainforest: Animals Tropical rainforests support a greater number and variety of animals than any other biome. One of the reasons for this great variety of animals is the constant warmth. Tropical rainforests also provide a nearly constant supply of water and a wide variety of food for the animals. Small animals, including monkeys, birds, snakes, rodents, frogs, and lizards are common in the tropical rainforest. Many of these animals and a multitude of insects never set foot on the ground. The animals use the tall trees and understory for shelter, hiding places from their predators, and a source of food. Animal adaptation Because there are so many animals competing for food, many animals have adapted by learning to eat a particular food eaten by no other animal. Toucans have adapted by developing long, large bill. This adaptation allows this bird to reach fruit on branches that are too small to support the bird's weight. The bill also is used to cut the fruit from the tree. The sloth uses a behavioral adaptation and camouflage to survive in the rainforest. It moves very, very slowly and spends most of its time hanging upside down from trees. Blue-green algae grows on its fur giving the sloth a greenish color and making it more difficult for predators to spot. Photos © 2000-www.arttoday.com Back | Next By Nathalie Alonso | Jupiterimages/Photos.com/Getty Images The toucan, with its conspicuous and brightly-colored bill, is one of the most recognizable birds on the planet. There are more than 30 species of toucans that vary in size and color patterns. The piercing vocalizations of these birds can be heard throughout the rain forests of Central and South America. The Toco toucan, the largest toucan species, measures approximately two feet, which makes it twice the size of the tawny-tufted toucanet, one of the smallest varieties. Toucans generally have a black plumage that contrasts with their brightly colored throats and faces. The colors of the bill vary and are reflected in the names of several species, such as the chestnut-mandibled and black-mandibled toucans. The most colorful bill is that of the keel-billed, or rainbow-billed toucan, which is mostly green with red, blue and orange parts. Though large, the bill of the toucan is mostly hollow and light. Its wings, however, are heavy, which makes the toucan a clumsy flyer that prefers hopping from branch to branch. The tongues of toucans are long and narrow and lined with bristles that help them swallow food. While toucans can be found throughout the rain forests of Central and South America, each species has a more limited range. The keel-billed toucan, Belize's national bird, may live from southern Mexico to northern Colombia and northwestern Venezuela. The Choco toucan is found in the region of the same name along the coasts of southwest Colombia and northwest Ecuador. The black-mandibled inhabits mountain rain forests in Venezuela, Colombia and Peru. The white-throated toucan and the channel-billed toucan are common throughout the Amazon rain forest. The latter also occurs in the coastal rain forests of Brazil. Toucans rarely descend from the rain forest canopy. The exception is the Toco toucan in eastern South America, which can be found on the edges of forests and in wet grasslands. Toucans are omnivorous, which means they eat both plant and animal matter. Their diets consist mostly of fruits, including figs and wild cherries, which they swallow whole. They will also eat lizards, tree frogs, insects and even the eggs of other birds. Toucans inadvertently help plant new fruit trees: the seeds they consume often pass whole through their digestive systems and sprout where they land. Toucans mate in the spring and usually remain monogamous for the duration of the breeding season. As part of a mating ritual, the male and female may use their bills to toss fruit to each other. The female lays one to five eggs inside a tree hole and both parents help keep them warm. Featherless chicks hatch two weeks to 18 days later, but do not open their eyes until they are approximately three weeks old, which is also when their first feathers appear. Chicks remain in the nest for up to eight weeks, during which time their bills develop. Toucans are social birds; they travel in flocks of up to 12 individuals. When it comes to vocalizations, toucans are divided into two groups: "croakers" and "yelpers." Croakers, which include the channel-billed toucan, emit frog-like sounds; yelpers, such as the white-throated, chestnut-mandibled and black-mandibled toucans, produce sharper cries that carry farther. Genus: Pamphastos Species: toco The Toco Toucan is the largest of the toucans. It can get to about twenty-four to twenty six inches in length. Its bill is brightly colored orange and black and can get to about eight inches in length. The Toco Toucan weighs about ten to seventeen ounces. The Toucan's massive bill is not as heavy as it looks; it has a hard outside and a hollow inside. A bright blue patch of blue skin surrounds the eye. A Toco Toucan has strong feet and toes to support its weight. Two toes point forward and two point backward. Its tongue is almost feather like and is six inches long. Its wings are short and rounded and it has a long broad tail. It's generally black with touches of white, scarlet and yellow. The Toco Toucan likes to live in open areas, lowland rainforests and palm groves of South America. The Toco Toucan will mate at different times, depending on where they live. They breed once a year and have two to four shiny white eggs in a clutch. The incubation period is sixteen days. The Toco Toucan nestlings are born without feathers and are blind. These babies stay in their nest for about seven weeks. Both parents care for their young, protecting and feeding them. Scientists do not know how long toucans live in the wild. Toucans usually live in pairs or groups called flocks. Their nests are in holes in trees. They talk to each other using toad like noises. They take turns cleaning each other's feathers with their beaks. The Toco Toucan's feather-like tongue helps move food along its bill. Its strong toes help it get a good grip on branches. The Toco Toucan has a very wide tail. It helps him stay balanced in the trees. The Toco Toucan eats fruit, seeds, insects, and spiders; steals eggs and nestlings from smaller birds. The Toco Toucan is a predator. It hunts lizards and snakes and steals eggs and nestlings from smaller birds. I can't find any sources about what eats the toco toucan. The Toco toucan is not endangered because it's able to adapt to man made habitats when the rainforests are destroyed. by Drew K. 2001 Bibliography: "Toco Toucan" Wildlife Explorer. USA: International Masters Publishers. 1998. "Toucan" Microsoft Encarta Encyclopedia 2000 1993-1999 edition "The Toucan bird" toucans/toucanbird.html 10/31/00 Animal Facts Keel Billed Toucan Toucans are well known for their big colorful bills. Below we list numerous facts about this interesting animal that lives in the tropical rainforest of Central America, South America, and the Caribbean. These facts were written for kids and adults. You will find information about their huge beaks, where they live, what they eat and how they survive. Click here for a great selection of Amazon.com books about Toucans. There are over forty species of toucans found in the tropical rainforest of South America. Their bright colorful markings provide them with excellent camouflage in the rainforest. They range in size depending on the species. The Lettered Aracari (Pteroglossus inscriptus) weighs approximately 4.6 ounces (130 grams) and is about 11.5 inches (29 centimeters) long, where as the Toco Toucan (Ramphastos toco), the largest species, weighs approximately 1.5 pounds (680 grams) and is about 29 inches (63 centimeters) long. Toucans live in flocks made up of approximately five to six birds. Toucans build their nest in tree hollows created by other animals; generally in the rainforest canopy. Toucans are omnivorous (eat both plants and animals). Their main food source is fruit which is plentiful in the rainforest trees where they live. They also consume eggs, insects, reptiles, small animals, and nuts. Their predators in the South American rainforest are generally large birds and wild cats. Other animals such as snakes and rodents may go after adult toucans but prefer to feed on their eggs. The toucan has small wings that do not allow it to fly very far. This is not a problem for the Toucan because it does not need to travel far. It hops around the rainforest trees and may fly very short distances to obtain food. Toucans have sharp strong claws which enable it to hold tightly onto branches. Due to their beauty toucans are often captured and sold as pets. Toucans are born very small and do not reach their full size for many months. During this time both the mother and father protect it from predators. Toucans are not considered an endangered species. The rapid rate of the destruction of rainforests has pushed many animals to the brink of extinction. Since Toucans can adapt to survival in a variety of locations they remain unthreatened and thrive. Toucans have larger bills, in comparison to the size of their body, than any other bird in the world. Their large bill helps them keep cool in the hot environment in which they live. This adaptation is one of the best heat regulating systems in the entire animal kingdom. Arteries in their bills expand when the bird gets hot; and release heat. Their bill is big and may look heavy but it is actually extremely light. It is made of a spongy substance called keratin. Nails and hair of many mammals (including humans) is made of keratin. This birds large beak helps them reach food more easily. For instance they can more easily reach hanging fruit and reach deep into holes in trees to obtain food. This birds bill is not strong and is not an effective weapon against predators. However some animals may be intimidated by the size of the bill. South American Animal Facts Capuchin Monkey Facts Flying Squirrel Facts Giant Anteater Facts Howler Monkey Facts Toucan Facts South American Animal Facts Name: Toco ToucanHabitat: Rain forest Climate: Most Tropical Rain forest Food source: Insects,young birds, lizards, and birds eggsFamily: RamphastidaeWeight: 400 gramsLength : 20 inches The Toco toucan is a part of the Ramphastidae family. It is recognized for its long and colorful bill. The toucan can weigh up to 400 grams and can get up to 20 inches long. The toucan lives inside trees in tropical places like the rain forest. The toucan will live in groups up to six.Effects of Climate Change: One of the main problems for the toucan because it lives inside trees is deforestation. Deforestation is when a company comes in and tears down trees for a specific reason, like to make mines, clear the land, or use the trees for their wood. This is a problem because when the toucans' home has been destroyed it makes the toucan have to leave its home. The toucan is being affected by climate change from people tearing down their habitats to create coal mines. Many other tropical birds are being threatened with extinction. Another way that the toucan is affected by climate change is the water that the toucan drinks is becoming contaminated by acid rain and the chemicals inside of it. This makes it so that the toucan can not drink it. This can also kill or make the animals that the toucan eats become sick. Acid rain is caused by bad chemicals going up to the atmosphere and going down with the water then it enters the streams that the toucan drinks from. Many of the chemicals are from the burning of so many fossil fuels. We can help to stop acid rain by not burning as many fossil fuels and switching to renewable energy like water and wind or solar power. 1 Toucans in the RainforestEmma 2 Introduction The tropical rainforests of the world are important to us. The tropical rainforest is very helpful. There are four layers of the rainforest. Rainforest are located near the equator. Rainforest are located near the southern Asia, South America, Africa, Central America, Pacific Island, near the equator. and in Areas of heat and lots of rain. There are many plants and animals in the rainforest . That's why the rainforests help us. 3 The layers of the rainforestThe forest floor and the understory are the lowest layers of the rainforest . The rainforest is very wet and dark . The forest floor has most of the larger animals . It is full of life too . Also lots and lots of plants . Understory some flying animals . Second layer of the rainforest it has a little more light . It has butterflies . That has snakes and small mammals. That is some facts about the understory. 4 The emergent and the canopyThe canopy and the emergent layers are the highest layers of the rainforest. The canopy is one of the top layers. It is full of animals and birds. The emergent layer is home of birds and plants. 5 Supplies We get many supplies from the rainforests. We get fruit and vegetables from the rainforest. We also get medicine from the rainforest. Also we get coffee and cocoa from the rainforest. We get many useful things from the rainforest. 6 Toucan Up in trees a strange bird hops in along . It plucks at fruit with it's huge bright colored beak . A toucan is a bird with a very large and colorful beak called a bill. A keep-billed toucan has a five colored beak. 7 Habitat Toucans are found in warm tropical forests. Toucans live in trees in the canopy. It lives in South America and Central America. They live in very warm parts of the tropical rainforests. 8 Diet Toucans eat lots of different things. They are omnivores. They eat plants, fruits, spiders, lizards, and snakes. They might even steal eggs or baby birds from nests. 9 Predators and Prey The toucan's prey are lizards, spiders, snakes and sometimes baby birds. In Central America rainforest are almost endangered. The toucan is not endangered. 10 Adaptations The bill of the toucan helps the toucan survive in the rainforest. They blend in with their beautiful colors. 11 Interesting Facts A toucan's body is covered with feathers called plumage. It has skin near its eyes and feathers all over its body. They have bright colors on their body too. 1 TOUCAN THE FRUIT EATER By: BM 2 Description Bird Beak is made of keratin like our fingernailsUsually 26 inches Colorful beak is one-third the length of its body Smooth skin on their face and body Small face Big beak 8 inch bill Usually pounds Small legs Short curved claws Black and yellow face 3 Habitat Tall trees in the rainforest called the canopySouth America, Africa, Asia, Australia, Europe, and North America They live with small noisy flocks with other birds like toucans and parrots Sometimes they fly to the mid-canopy, but rarely fly to the forest floors They live in tree holes in trees 4 Lifespan & Endangered Toucans usually live up to be 16 years oldThey are being hunted by humans who live in the rainforest They are endangered by humans in the rainforest 5 Weather, Climate & LandformsThey live in 6 of the 7 continents of the world except Antarctica They live in Tropical and Temperate Rainforests Hot temperatures are their favorite Tall trees block the sun, so not much sun light can get through Warm and hot in the canopy is where they hang around Damp & wet climate 6 Food Toucans are omnivores (a plant and meat eater)They get their food by using their long, not heavy beak to pluck fruit and nuts out of trees They need nuts, fruit, and healthy food so they don't get sick and die Toucans can eat up to about 2 pounds a day and they poop out 1 pound 7 Prey Prey & Predators Predator Big Cats OcelotHumans who live in the rainforest kill them to make clothes and other things Baby toucans are prey to other birds such as other toucans and parrots Predator Smaller Animals Insects Other toucan eggs Lizards 8 Reproduction They lay 2 to 4 eggs at a time Hatch in about 18 daysThe babies leave their nest after 6 or 7 weeks They can fly in about 7 weeks when they get their feathers Fed 4 or 5 times a day 9 Behavior Toucans tip their bills up to attract other toucansSit up in the canopy Fly all day looking for food Squawk to communicate with each other Very nice animals They live in groups with parrots and other toucans Toucans are not nocturnal 10 Behavioral AdaptationThey fly fast to catch their prey or food to eat because their prey is very fast Sneak up on their prey in the air Fly high in the canopy when they are getting chased by predators because predators can't follow them in Toucans eat other baby toucans for food because food is running out in the rainforest They tuck their bills backwards and lay their bills over their backs, then they tip their tails up to cover their bills so they don't get eaten by predators while sleeping in trees 11 Physical Adaptations Toucans have a hard beak that helps by cracking nuts, fruit, and insects Big eyes help spot their food Big beak that helps by plucking fruit out of trees Black feathers help them blend in with the canopy trees Sharp, short claws help get a grip on the trees 12 Physiological AdaptationsNot a lot of feathers, they don't need it in the rainforest because it is warm in the canopy Good eye sight to see the food they need Really fast metabolism so when they eat they poop really fast so they don't carry extra weight and can fly more easily 13 Interesting Facts Toucans eat fruit and nuts then spit out the seeds so new trees can grow Young toucans can't protect themselves from predators because they aren't strong enough

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