

Record your answers here and return to the admissions desk for a prize.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

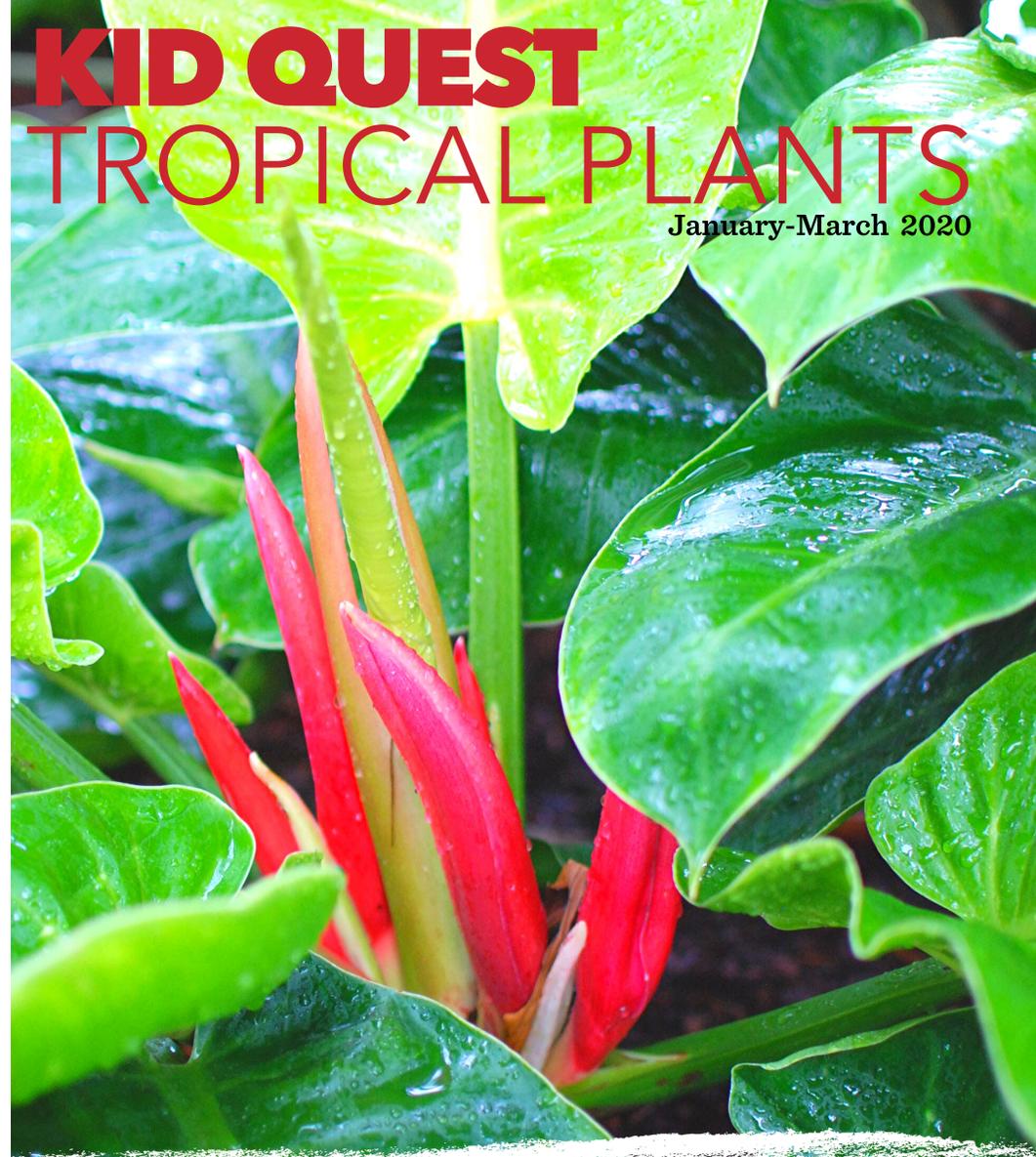
5. _____

6. _____

Try This



A rain forest ecosystem is organized into layers including the canopy, understory, and forest floor. In the wild, a variety of different animal species live on each layer. Try to identify these layers. This plant is called a Bird's Nest Fern. Can you find it? On which forest layer does it live?



KID QUEST TROPICAL PLANTS

January-March 2020

Wonders of the Rain Forest

Rain forests flourish on every continent except Antarctica. They help regulate the world's temperatures and weather patterns by storing and releasing massive amounts of water into our atmosphere. Rain forests also provide us with oxygen, medicines and food. Head to the Conservatory to discover just a few wonders of the rainforest.

KID QUEST



1

Head to the Conservatory. Once inside, turn right into the East Wing. Immediately look for a plant with a thick stem with tentacle-like aerial roots. These above-ground roots absorb water and nutrients from the air. The interesting stem pattern is formed when leaves drop to the ground and leave scars. How many leaf scars can you count?

Write the name of this plant on the back of this sheet.



4

Just across the way, you will find a fern that originated in rain forests of a small Australian island territory. Spore-holding sori on the leaf undersides are shaped like spleens. Therefore, people once thought this plant cured spleen ailments. Some still believe tea made from the fronds has medicinal value.

Write the name of this plant on the back of this sheet.

2

Move ahead a bit and look for a plant with a red center. There are hundreds of varieties of this plant in the wild. Some start their lives on the forest floor and wind up trees. Others start their lives in the treetops and grow down to the soil.

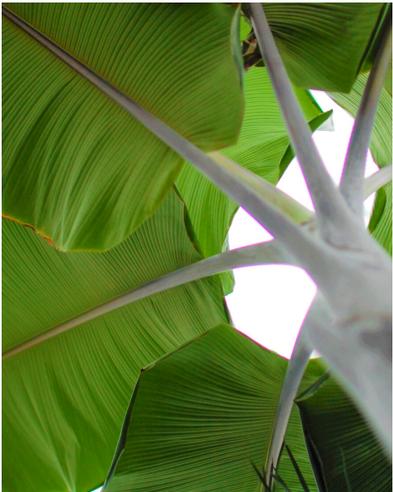
Write the name of this plant on the back of this sheet.



5

Return to the right side of the East Wing. Look up. Can you find a plant that spends its entire life in the treetops? It is an epiphyte which means it grows on other plants for support, but gets water and nutrients directly from air and rain.

Write the name of this plant on the back of this sheet.



3

Take a few more steps. Locate a tall plant with giant leaves and a smooth, greenish-black pseudostem. A pseudostem looks like a tree trunk, but it is not. Pseudostems are formed by tightly packed leaves that emerge at the top. This plant produces a delicious fruit. Can you guess what it is?

Write the name of this plant on the back of this sheet.



6

Now, look around you to find a climbing vine, also known as an epiphytic liana that grows up trees toward the sunlight. After this plant flowers, it leaves behind a pod with many tiny black seeds that produce a spice that most people love. What do you think it is?

Write the name of this plant on the back of this sheet.