

Rainforest Calling

9:50 a.m.

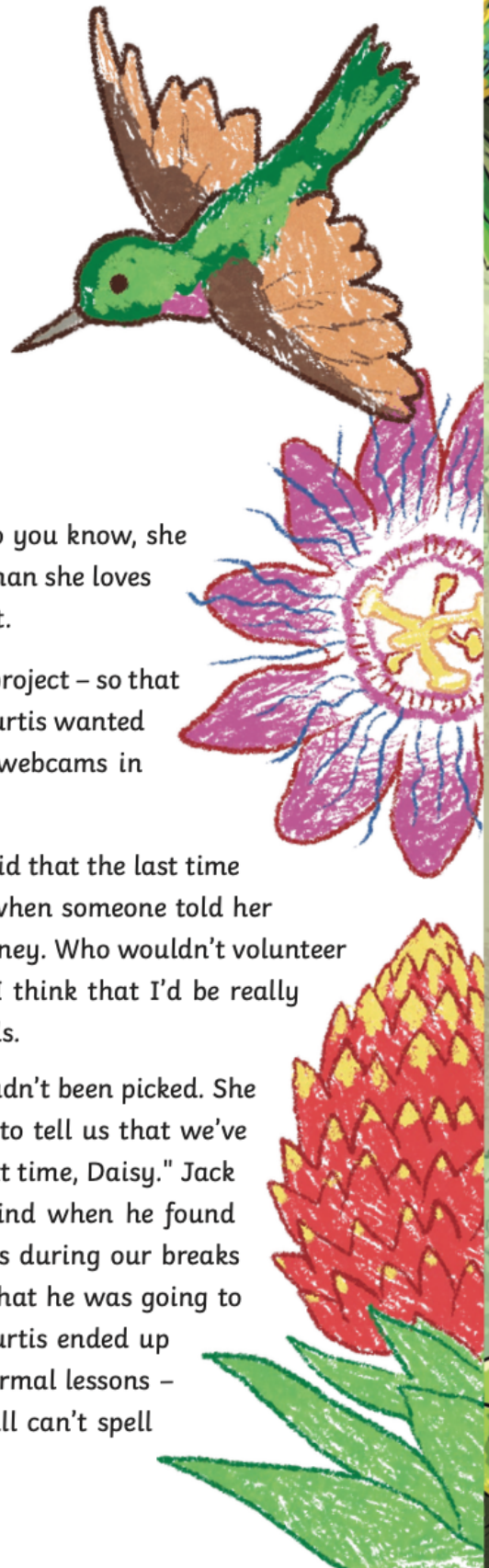
I wonder if the person who gave the rainforest its name had ever actually been there. Surely, if they had, they'd have called it the 'plant forest' instead. Mrs Curtis, my teacher, told us that more than two thirds of the world's plant species live in rainforest environments. That's more than 80,000 different plants!

There's no way that I'm telling my Grandma Wilkins that! She'd be on the first plane to Brazil with her lucky gardening gloves because she really loves plants. Do you know, she once told me that she might love plants even more than she loves my mum! Don't worry, I haven't told my mum that.

That's one of the reasons why I volunteered for this project – so that I could tell my grandma about all the plants. Mrs Curtis wanted one of us to spend a whole week looking at some webcams in the Amazonian rainforest.

I put my hand straight up. My best friend, Millie, said that the last time she'd seen anything move as fast as my arm was when someone told her daft brother that the bank was giving away free money. Who wouldn't volunteer to spend the whole week looking at the Amazon? I think that I'd be really good at spotting all the different plants and animals.

As soon as Mrs Curtis looked at me, I knew that I hadn't been picked. She had the same expression on her face that she uses to tell us that we've got a maths question wrong as she said, "Maybe next time, Daisy." Jack Walters got picked instead, but he changed his mind when he found out that we're only allowed to look at the webcams during our breaks and at lunchtime. He said that there was no way that he was going to miss playing football in the playground. So Mrs Curtis ended up choosing me anyway! I don't mind having to do normal lessons – I got nine out of ten on my spellings last week. Still can't spell rhinnosoraus, though.



Mrs Curtis said that I have to write a journal entry to tell the rest of the class what I've seen on the webcams. I haven't written a journal before. The only things I write at home are lists of my favourite songs and the things I want for Christmas, but Mrs Curtis said not to worry and to just write as I like to speak. I think that should make it easier!



1. What does Daisy suggest the rainforest should be called?

2. According to the text, what portion of the world's plant species live in the rainforest?

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 80,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> about half |
| <input type="checkbox"/> more than two thirds | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 in 10 |

3. Which of these words or phrases shows that Daisy offered to give up her time willingly?

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> picked | <input type="checkbox"/> wanted |
| <input type="checkbox"/> volunteered | <input type="checkbox"/> allowed |

4. Match these character names to the correct descriptions.

Mrs Wilkins	Daisy's teacher
Jack Walters	Daisy's classmate
Millie	Daisy's grandma
Mrs Curtis	Daisy's best friend

5. Which of the following are things that Daisy normally writes at home. Tick two.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> her journal | <input type="checkbox"/> Christmas list |
| <input type="checkbox"/> lists of her favourite songs | <input type="checkbox"/> shopping list |

6. As part of the project, Daisy has to... (tick two)

- ☐ ...get on a plane to Brazil.
- ☐ ...look at some webcams in the Amazonian rainforest.
- ☐ ...miss her spelling test.
- ☐ ...write a journal entry to tell the rest of the class what she's seen.

7. Why didn't Jack take part in the project?
