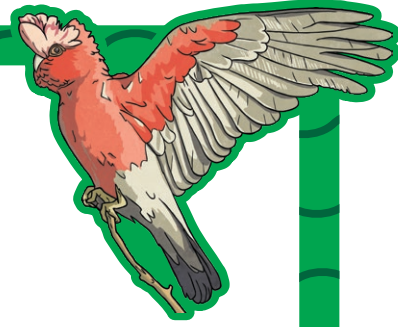


A Sensory Stroll



As I walk, I can feel:
the dampness of the humid air as I inhale;
the spongy, uneven ground beneath my feet
and the dewy undergrowth delicately grazing my skin.

• • • •

With my eyes, I can see:
foliage in all shades of green
glittering in the sparse rays of sunlight;
plants and shrubs jostling for space
and gushing streams driving relentlessly through the land.

• • • •

With my nose, I can smell:
the scent of damp, warm soil absorbing decaying leaves;
the aromas of orchids pushing through
and the clean, crisp, fresh air following a storm.

• • • •

With my ears, I can hear:
layers of chirrups from visiting birds;
the whooping bellows and chatters of monkeys
and echoes of thunder behind the splattering of raindrops.

• • • •



Questions

1. What is the poet doing in the rainforest? Tick one.

- painting
- driving
- walking
- experimenting

2. Draw **four** lines to match each noun from the poem with its corresponding action. The first has been done for you.

undergrowth	●	glittering
foliage	●	splattering
orchids	●	pushing
raindrops	●	grazing

A line is drawn from the dot on the right side of the 'undergrowth' box to the dot on the right side of the 'grazing' box.

3. Find and copy one word from the poem which shows the streams were continually flowing.

4. What is happening to the leaves on the ground?

5. Find and copy one word from the poem that means the same as 'plants and shrubs'.

6. Why do you think that the air in the rainforest is described as 'humid'?

7. **With my ears, I can hear:
layers of chirrups from visiting birds;**

Why do you think the sounds of the birds are described as 'layers'?

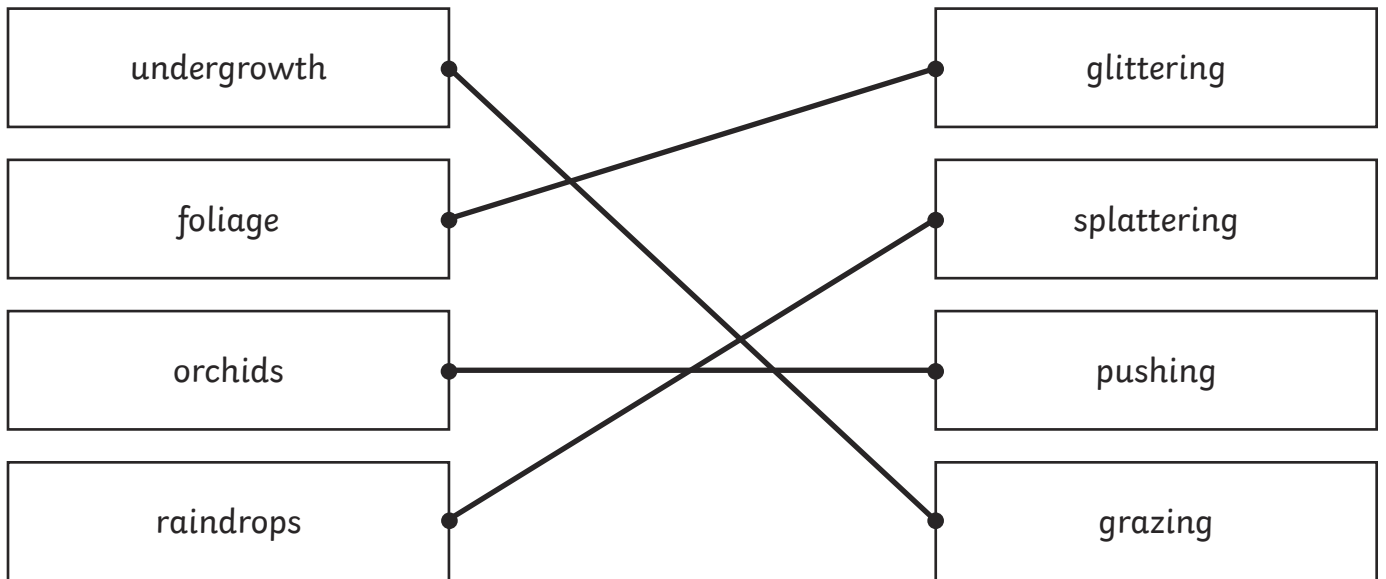
8. Imagine that you are asked to write another verse for this poem.
Explain what it could be about.

Answers

1. What is the poet doing in the rainforest? Tick one.

- painting
- driving
- walking**
- experimenting

2. Draw **four** lines to match each noun from the poem with its corresponding action. The first has been done for you.



3. Find and copy one word from the poem which shows the streams were continually flowing.

relentlessly

4. What is happening to the leaves on the ground?

Accept either: The leaves on the ground are decaying; being absorbed by the soil.

5. Find and copy one word from the poem that means the same as 'plants and shrubs'.

Accept either of the following: undergrowth; foliage.

6. Why do you think that the air in the rainforest is described as 'humid'?

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that the air is described as humid because it is steamy. There is a lot of rain in the rainforest and the sun evaporates this rain which makes the air humid.

7. **With my ears, I can hear:**

layers of chirrups from visiting birds;

Why do you think the sounds of the birds are described as 'layers'?

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think the sounds of the birds are described as layers because there are lots of birds 'chirruping' near and far. These different sounds, from different parts of the forest, would sound as though they were on different levels.

8. Imagine that you are asked to write another verse for this poem.

Explain what it could be about.

Pupils' own responses, such as: Another verse for this poem could include the tastes of the rainforest. It could include how the air tastes and what some of the fruits and nuts that grow in the forest might taste like.

Questions

1. Which sense does **not** have its own verse in the poem? Tick one.

- smell
- sight
- touch
- taste

2. ... and the dewy undergrowth delicately grazing my skin.

Which of the following words mean the same as 'delicately'? Tick **two**.

- gracefully
- swiftly
- lightly
- vigorously

3. What does the soil do with the decaying leaves?

4. Find and copy **two** words from the poem which show that the rainforest is a wet place.

•

•

5. Find and copy a word from the poem that means 'the plants and shrubs that grow under trees in woodland'.

6. Why do you think that the ground is described as being 'spongy' and 'uneven'?

7. **... and gushing streams driving relentlessly through the land.**

What does the phrase 'driving relentlessly' tell us about the streams in the poem?

8. Imagine that the author wants to write about butterflies in this poem.

In what verse would you suggest that they include them? Explain your answer.

9. Summarise the content of this poem.

Answers

1. Which sense does **not** have its own verse in the poem? Tick one.

- smell
- sight
- touch
- taste**

2. ... and the dewy undergrowth delicately grazing my skin.

Which of the following words mean the same as 'delicately'? Tick **two**.

- gracefully**
- swiftly
- lightly**
- vigorously

3. What does the soil do with the decaying leaves?

The soil absorbs the decaying leaves.

4. Find and copy **two** words from the poem which show that the rainforest is a wet place.

Accept any two of the following: humid; dampness; dewy; damp; raindrops.

5. Find and copy a word from the poem that means 'the plants and shrubs that grow under trees in woodland'.

undergrowth

6. Why do you think that the ground is described as being 'spongy' and 'uneven'?

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think the ground is spongy because it is covered with leaves and moss. It may also be uneven because of all of the decaying matter on the ground as well as branches and roots.

7. ... and gushing streams driving relentlessly through the land.

What does the phrase 'driving relentlessly' tell us about the streams in the poem?

Pupils' own responses, such as: The phrase 'driving relentlessly' tells us that the streams are filled with water and continually flowing with force.

8. Imagine that the author wants to write about butterflies in this poem.
In what verse would you suggest that they include them? Explain your answer.

Pupils' own responses, such as: I would suggest that butterflies should be included in the second verse of the poem. This is because this verse is about sight and butterflies are beautiful and colourful creatures that would be hard to miss in the rainforest.

9. Summarise the content of this poem.

Pupils' own responses, such as: This is a poem about the senses. It describes the sights, sounds, smells and feel of a rainforest from the perspective of someone walking through it.

Questions

1. Draw **four** lines to match each sense with what it is described as experiencing in the poem.

smell

dewy undergrowth

sight

clean, crisp, fresh air

touch

visiting birds

sound

gushing streams

2. ... **foliage in all shades of green**

What does the word foliage mean? Tick one.

- many colours
- many creatures
- many leaves
- many birds

3. What noise do the raindrops make in the poem?

4. Give an example of personification from the poem.

5. Find and copy a word that means the same as 'thinly scattered'.

6. **... and the dewy undergrowth delicately grazing my skin.**

What does the phrase 'delicately grazing' tell us about how the undergrowth touches the poet's skin?

7. Why do you think that the leaves are described as 'glittering' in the poem?

8. **... and echoes of thunder behind the splattering of raindrops.**

What does this phrase tell us about the thunderstorm?

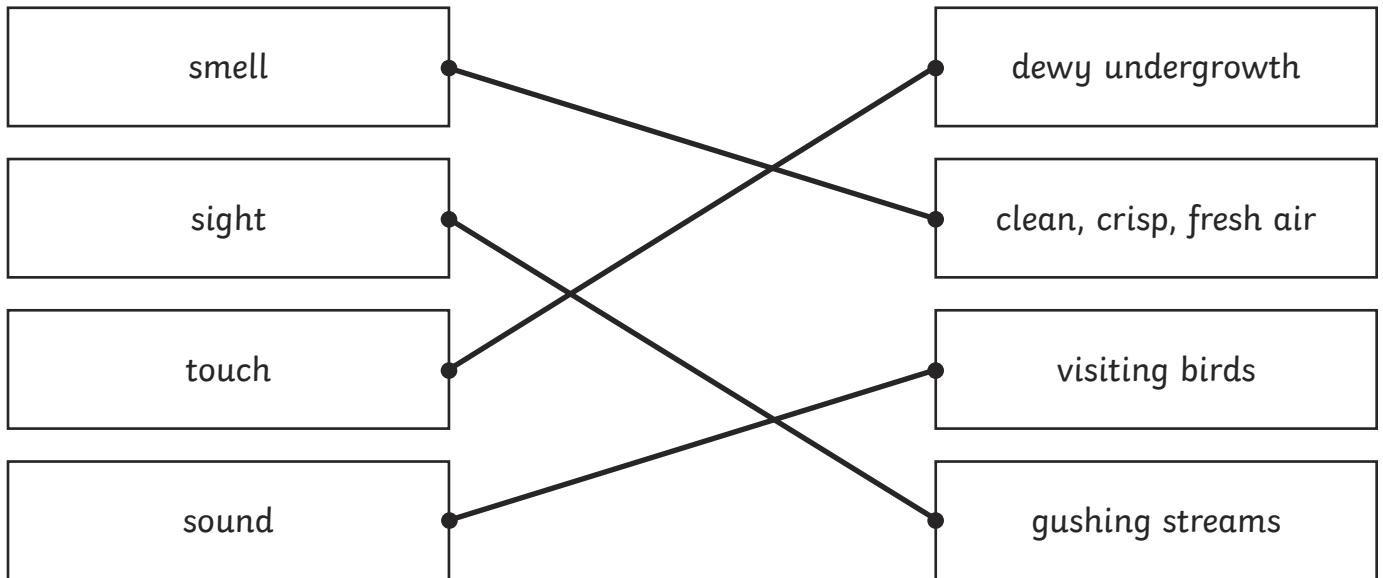
9. Look at the second verse of the poem.

Give an example of something else that you might see in the rainforest that could be included in this verse.

10. Summarise the content of this poem in one sentence.

Answers

1. Draw **four** lines to match each sense with what it is described as experiencing in the poem.



2. ... **foliage in all shades of green**

What does the word foliage mean? Tick one.

- many colours
 many creatures
 many leaves
 many birds

3. What noise do the raindrops make in the poem?

Raindrops make a splattering sound in the poem.

4. Give an example of personification from the poem.

Accept any of the following: plants and shrubs jostling for space; gushing streams driving relentlessly (through the land); orchids pushing through.

5. Find and copy a word that means the same as 'thinly scattered'.

sparse

6. ... **and the dewy undergrowth delicately grazing my skin.**

What does the phrase 'delicately grazing' tell us about how the undergrowth touches the poet's skin?

Pupils' own responses, such as: The phrase 'delicately grazing' suggests that the undergrowth brushes past the poet's skin very lightly as they walk past.

7. Why do you think that the leaves are described as 'glittering' in the poem?

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think the leaves are described as glittering because they will be wet from the rain and humidity and the sunlight will be shining on them. Put together, these would create a glittery effect.

8. ... and echoes of thunder behind the splattering of raindrops.

What does this phrase tell us about the thunderstorm?

Pupils' own responses, such as: This phrase tells us that the thunderstorm is fairly quiet and in the background so it may have already passed or be on its way.

9. Look at the second verse of the poem.

Give an example of something else that you might see in the rainforest that could be included in this verse.

Pupils' own responses, such as: I can see smiling sloths gracefully climbing the trunks of trees and beautiful butterflies fluttering in and out of the leaves.

10. Summarise the content of this poem in one sentence.

Pupils' own responses, such as: This poem describes the sights, sounds, smells and feel of a rainforest from the perspective of someone walking through it.