

MAIN TOPIC GUIDE

WHAT'S INSIDE THIS GUIDE?

- 16 Research/discussion prompts
- 16 Hands-on activities
- Facts and information
- Suggestions for further exploration
- End of topic quiz

WHO IS THIS GUIDE FOR?

The suggested age range is 6-14 years. This may seem very broad but every child can work at their own level.

HOW DO I USE THIS GUIDE?

The topic is broken into four specific focus areas. Each one has research /discussion prompts, hands-on activities and suggestions for further exploration.

We usually spend around 4 weeks working through a Main Topic guide but you can take as much or as little time as you like on any part of it - slow it down, pick and choose, take deep dives - whatever works for you is absolutely the best way to use it!

Here are some suggestions of how children have different ages might get the most out of the guides:

For younger children... (6-10)

- Enjoy sharing stacks of books together
- Talk through the research and discussion prompts
- Do the hands-on activities together
- Enjoy relevant puzzles and games whilst listening to some of our recommended audio books

For older children... (11-14)

- Encourage them to do independent research and engage in discussions about what they discover (perhaps help them source relevant books and supervise internet access)
- Encourage them to present their findings through written answers, infographic posters, presentations, notebooking, films or animations
- Do the hands-on activities with them whilst listening to relevant podcasts or audiobooks

WHAT RESOURCES DO I NEED?

Before we begin a new topic, we always like to take a trip to the library and gather together any relevant games and puzzles. Some of the suggested activities require craft materials or ingredients so it's a good idea to see if you need to stock up on anything.



Visit [toptopicslearning.com](https://www.toptopicslearning.com) for lists of books, podcasts and more - all organised by topic.



Find photos, info and inspiration on our topic **Pinterest** boards.



Watch our specially created animations on **YouTube** (more on the way).



Test your knowledge with the Top Topics Quiz Time **podcast**.

CAN I SHARE THIS GUIDE?

You can print as many copies of a guide as you need for use in your home but please don't give printed or digital copies to anyone else. If you would like to use a guide with a co-op, group or school, please get in touch so we can offer you a discount.

HOW CAN I SUPPORT TOP TOPICS?

We are a small family run business and really appreciate your support.

Follow us on social media... @toptopicslearning

Help us spread the world... share photos of your Top Topics work and activities using #toptopics

TOP TOPICS

**TOP
TOPICS**

EXPLORING THE AMAZON RAINFOREST



**MAIN
TOPIC
GUIDE**

RAINFOREST ANIMALS

RESEARCH & DISCUSSION

- WHY ISN'T THERE A LIST OF ALL THE ANIMALS IN THE AMAZON RAINFOREST?
- WHAT DOES ARBOREAL MEAN?
- WHAT ANIMALS LIVE IN AND AROUND THE AMAZON RIVER?
- WHY ARE LEAF CUTTER ANTS LIKE FARMERS?



ACTIVITIES

□ WRITE A CREATURE FEATURE

FACT: The Amazon rainforest is home to more than 400 mammals including: tapirs, sloths, bats, jaguars, monkeys, anteaters, armadillos and more.

ACTIVITY: Create an animal character based on a real animal that lives in the Amazon Rainforest. Create a character map showing what they look like, their likes/dislikes, what they like to eat, special skills etc.

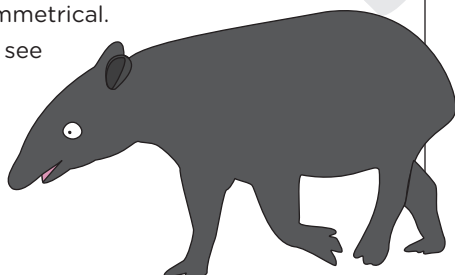
EXTRA: Write a story about your character. You could make a picture book, record an audiobook or make an animation.

□ EXPLORE INSECT SYMMETRY

FACT: Millions of species of insects live in the Amazon rainforest. Insects are known for their three-part bodies (head, thorax, and abdomen) protected by a hard covering called an exoskeleton, two pairs of wings, three pairs of legs, and a pair of antennae. All insects are symmetrical so they look the same on each side of their body.

ACTIVITY: Draw the missing parts of the insect illustrations in the resource pack - remember they need to be symmetrical.

Colour them in and see if you can find out an interesting fact about each one.



□ MEET THE BIRDS

FACT: Over 1,300 species of bird live in the Amazon rainforest including: Harpy Eagles, Scarlet Macaws, Toucans and hummingbirds.

Scarlet Macaws: often fly in noisy flocks or pairs to find food. In the rainforest they are important because they help new trees to grow by dispersing seeds (by eating them and then pooping them out).



Hummingbirds: fly differently to other birds, they don't flap their wings but rotate them and are the only bird species in the world that can fly backwards, up, and down. In the rainforest they are important pollinators - as they dart about drinking nectar and eating insects, sticky pollen grains stick to their beaks and are transferred from one flower to another.

ACTIVITY: Do some research to find instructions for folding an origami hummingbird and an origami parrot then research the colours and markings of real birds and colour your paper models to match.

□ MAKE A RIVER ANIMAL

FACT: The Amazon River that runs through the rainforest is teeming with life. Creatures that live in and around it include: Manatee, Pink Dolphin, Capybara, Green Anaconda, Basilisk Lizard, Spectacled Caiman and Red Bellied Piranha.

ACTIVITY: Craft some Amazon river creatures using modelling clay.

EXTRA: Find out about their diet and, habitat.

EXPLORE MORE

- What is the most dangerous creature in the Amazon rainforest?
- Find out about the Glass frog



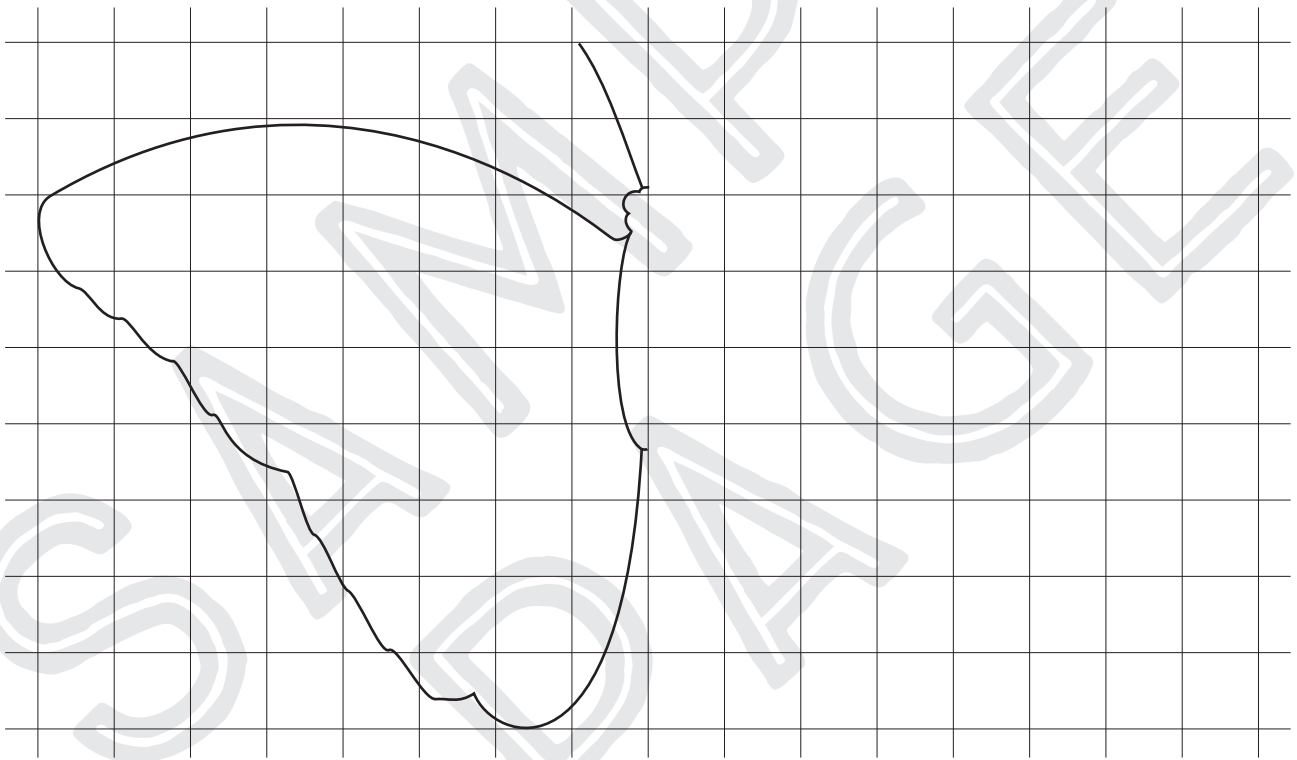
INSECT SYMMETRY

ACTIVITY

FUN FACT: Millions of species of insects live in the Amazon rainforest. Insects are known for their three-part bodies (head, thorax, and abdomen) protected by a hard covering called an exoskeleton, two pairs of wings, three pairs of legs, and a pair of antennae. Insects are also symmetrical so they look the same on each side of their body.

ACTIVITY: Draw the missing parts of the insect illustrations - remember they need to be symmetrical. Colour them in and see if you can find out an interesting fact about each one.

BLUE MORPHO BUTTERFLY



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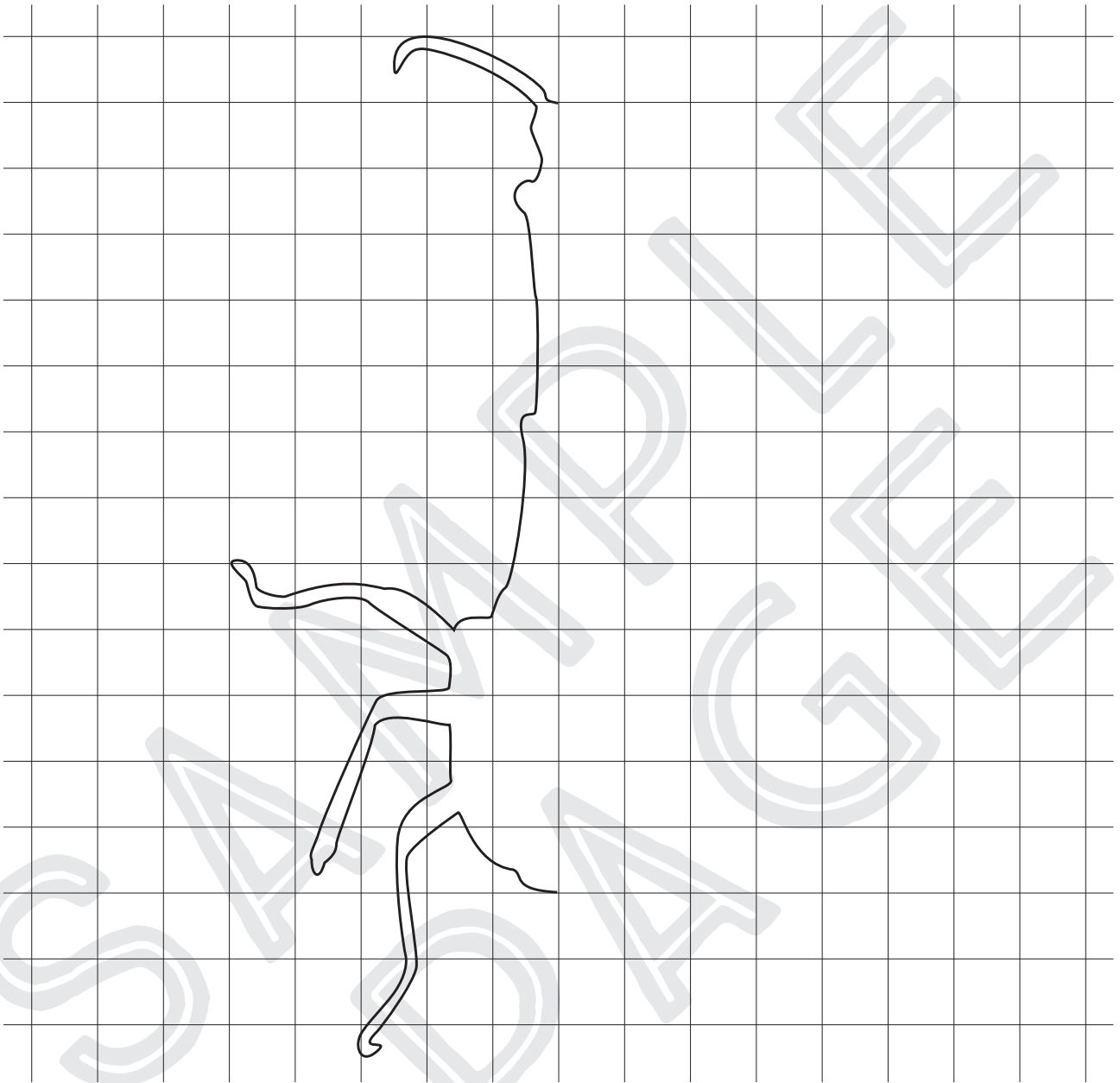
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INSECT SYMMETRY

ACTIVITY

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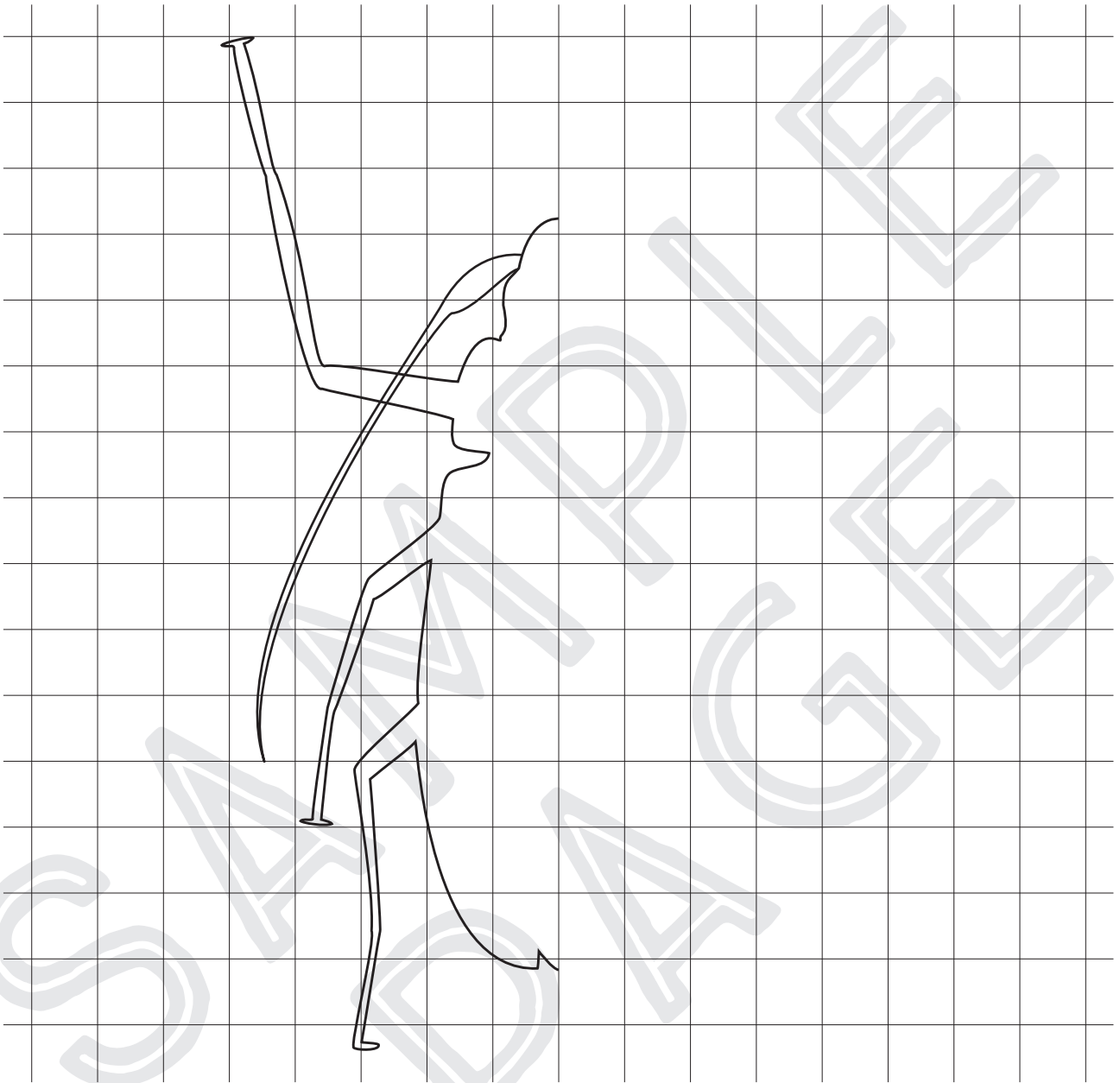


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INSECT SYMMETRY

ACTIVITY

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