THE STORY

The story is set in the jungles of southern India, where a baby is discovered and raised by a pack of wolves. Mowgli, the boy, has a life full of adventure and conflict. Mowgli’s best friends are a bear named Baloo, and a black panther named Bagheera. The notorious tiger, Shere Khan, is a force to be reckoned with in the jungle.

Kipling’s story of Mowgli’s childhood adventures in the jungle reinforce respect for life, both animal and human, and the idea of the harmony of all living things.
2. **Sequencing Events**

The following events occurred in Mowgli’s life. Put them in order 1-7 by writing the number in the circle, then illustrate your favorite to the right.

- Mowgli meets Shere Khan and scares him away with fire from a lightning strike
- Mowgli leaves the jungle
- Mowgli is captured by the Monkeys
- Bagheera finds a baby boy in a basket
- Bagheera tells Mowgli he must return to the man’s village to stay safe from Shere Khan
- The wolves accept the man cub as one of their own and raise him
- Baloo and Bagheera team up to save Mowgli from the Monkeys

3. **Illustrate** your favorite event below:
Mowgli grew up in the rainforest of India, along with many animals that are indigenous to the Indian rainforest. *Indigenous* means originating and living in a particular environment or place; native. Ridiculously huge numbers of animals live in rainforests, including microscopic animals, invertebrates (like insects and worms), fish, reptiles, amphibians, birds, and mammals. Some from the Indian rainforest include:

- Bengal tiger
- Rhinoceros
- King cobra
- Macaque
- Malabar giant squirrel
- Wroughton’s freetail bat
- Black jaguar
- Indian elephant
- Pied hornbill
- Howler monkey

4. **Write an Animal Journal Entry**
Pick your favorite rainforest animal and write a journal entry as if you are that animal living in the rainforest for a day. What makes this animal well-suited to live in the rainforest (speed, agility, claws, teeth, beak etc.)?
Rainforests

**Tropical rainforests** are located on a belt along the equator, almost always less than 23.5 degrees north or south of this imaginary line. 23.5° north of the equator is a line called the **Tropic of Cancer**, and the same distance south of the equator is labeled the **Tropic of Capricorn**. Tropical rainforests receive a high average rainfall; some rainforests may receive up to 400 inches of precipitation per year. The average rainfall, however, is 160 inches.

5. **Color the map of rainforests!**

Color the rainforests of the world GREEN
Color the rest of the Earth’s land BROWN
Color the oceans, seas, and lakes BLUE
Color the lines representing the equator, the Tropic of Cancer, and the Tropic of Capricorn RED
Meet the Animals

WOLVES

Wolves belong to the Canidae family along with dogs, coyotes and jackals. There are only three species of wolves found throughout the world: the gray wolf, the red wolf and the Ethiopian wolf. The gray wolf is the largest, with a larger snout and body compared to the other species. Gray wolves are one of the most wide-ranging land animals, distributed throughout North America, Europe and Asia. In comparison, the Ethiopian wolf only occupies mountain ranges in the African country of Ethiopia. Wolves are very social animals, living and traveling in packs. Packs, on average, include up to 8 or 9 wolves led by an alpha male and female. All wolves are carnivorous and packs hunt together making them capable of taking down prey up to 10 times their size.

BEARS

Bears are found on every continent in the world except Antarctica and Australia. While the eight species of bears aren’t necessarily varied, they can inhabit and adapt to diverse environments. Polar bears, for example, have paddle-like forepaws to make it easier to swim and walk on ice. South American spectacled bears have strong jaws to help them eat tough vegetation and palm nuts. Sight and hearing are not as well developed in bears, but their sense of smell is strong, aiding them in finding food. All bears have a plantigrade or flat footed stance like humans. In general, most bears are omnivorous, eating what’s in season within their environment. The brown bear, for example, eats insects and fruit all year, but during certain seasons will prey on mountain goats, sheep or salmon. The sloth bear in The Jungle Book is named Baloo. Sloth bears are found in India and prefer drier forests and areas of exposed rock. They sleep in caves during the day, but do not technically hibernate. Sloth bears are recognizable by their elongated, mobile snout, a large tongue and broad, fat teeth that are ideal for their herbivorous diet.
Meet the Animals

PANTHERS

‘Panther’ is a general term for melanistic, or dark coated leopards. Black panthers, like Bagheera from *The Jungle Book*, are the same species as leopards which are known for their recognizable lighter brown or golden fur with dark spots. Panthers also possess the same spot pattern as leopards, however they are more difficult to see in contrast to their dark fur coat. Leopards are incredibly diverse in their choice of prey. They occupy a great range of habitats and their spot pattern is variable depending on the habitat they frequent. For example, leopards inhabiting warm, dry environments tend to have more yellow, tawny coats. These big cats have many specialized adaptations, such as large skulls with strong jaw muscles to easily kill prey and short muscular legs to help them climb trees. Leopards also have advanced vision and hearing which allows them to hunt at night and in dense, forested areas.

TIGERS

Tigers are the largest and strongest of the big cats. An adult male can reach up to 10 feet (3 m) in length and weigh as much as 500 pounds (227 kg). Tigers are incredibly powerful in part due to their short, thick necks and large, muscular forelimbs. The tiger’s body is essentially designed to hunt, stalk and kill prey. Along with an incredibly acute sense of hearing, the whiskers on their face help guide them through dark and heavily wooded areas. These lone hunters spend the quieter hours of early morning and late evening preying on larger, hoofed animals like pigs, deer, buffalo and a variety of antelope. Wild tigers live in Asia, and prefer a habitat of tall grasses and tropical forests. However, depending on the species, their habitats can range from warm and moist climates where the Sumatran tiger lives to cold and snowy where the Amur tiger inhabits a very small part of Russia. Shere Khan in *The Jungle Book* is a Bengal tiger. Bengal tigers are mainly found in India and are the most recognizable with their bold orange and black stripes and underbellies of light fur.
ORANGUTANS
An orangutan is a type of great ape found in Sumatra and Borneo. In Sumatra, an Indonesian island, they mainly occupy the northern tip, which is mostly swampy forestland. The Bornean orangutan has a broader face, shorter beard and darker color than the Sumatran orangutan. Both orangutans are arboreal, which means they dwell mostly in trees. In fact, they are the largest tree dwelling animal in the world. The Bornean orangutan actually builds a sleeping nest in the trees each night, even creating a canopy of broken limbs if it is raining. Occasionally, the larger males live on the ground when they become too heavy for the trees to support their weight. Orangutans are mainly frugivores, meaning they eat a wide variety of plants but most of their diet (over 60%) comes from fruit. They can eat around 400 different types of foods in a year. King Louie is modeled after an ancient and extinct Southeast Asian ape. This prehistoric primate was said to have been as big as a polar bear, weighed 1,200 pounds (544 kg), stood 10 feet tall (3 m) and last existed 300,000 years ago.

PYTHONS
Pythons are snakes known for being constrictors. They ambush and wrap their muscular bodies around their prey, squeezing until the animal suffocates. Pythons mostly inhabit savannas, river areas and wetlands within Africa, Asia and Australia. Pythons are very skilled swimmers and are typically found near wet areas. An exception is the ball or royal python of West and Central Africa; these species prefer grasslands that allow them to burrow underground. Pythons have poor eyesight and are hyper-dependent on their sense of smell and ability to sense the heat of other animals. They stay hidden while hunting prey and protecting their clutch of eggs, so habitats must provide sufficient cover. Python species can vary greatly in size. The reticulated python of Southern Asia, the longest snake native to Asia, can weigh around 165 pounds (75 kg) and be 21 feet (6.5 m) in length whereas the Australian pygmy python can be as small as 21 inches (53 cm) and 7 ounces (198 g) and is the smallest snake on record. In The Jungle Book, Kaa is a Burmese Python, a snake typically found in Southern China, along the Indonesian island chain and into India. Burmese pythons have an individualized brown box pattern on their skin and are usually white, gray and quite large, averaging 15-18 feet (4.5 m - 5.4 m) in length.
Meet the Animals

ELEPHANTS

Elephants live in Asia and Africa and are the largest and heaviest of all land animals. Their habitats range from tropical forests to scrub brush and jungles. The Asian elephant can grow to be 11,000 pounds (5.5 metric tons) and 10 feet (3 m) tall. They can consume up to 300 pounds (136 kg) of food a day, and are constantly on the move to find food and water. Males are solitary, while the females travel and live in herds. Elephants vocalize most of their moods and emotions in low rumbling sounds, which are difficult for humans to hear due to the low frequency in which they are communicated. The elephant’s tusks help them dig for water and remove bark from trees. Their trunks, which can weigh up to 300 pounds (136 kg) and measure five feet long (1.5 m), allow them to eat, drink, smell, wash, breathe, touch, vocalize and defend themselves. The African elephant is similar to the Asian elephant in many ways, but has much bigger ears that measure almost 4 feet (1.29 m) across.

6. **Comprehension questions** Fill in the blanks below after reading about the rainforest animals.

1. Wolves belong to the Canidae family along with what other animals? ________________

2. Most bears are ________________, eating what’s in season within their environment.

3. The elephant’s ________________ allows it to eat, drink, smell, wash, breathe, touch, vocalize and defend itself.

4. This animal has poor eyesight and is very dependent on its sense of smell and ability to sense the heat of other animals. ________________

5. This animal, ________________, is the largest tree-dwelling mammal on the planet, meaning it is ________________ (dwelling mostly in trees).

6. This large cat is a lone hunter and prefers a habitat of tall grasses and tropical forests. ________________

7. This large cat is the same species as a leopard. ________________
Protect the Animals

You can help protect these animals!

By learning more about the species in this guide, you are already on your way towards helping protect animals in your own backyard and beyond! Knowledge creates awareness, which can lead to action. A positive attitude towards all animals can help make a conservation impact when combined with actions that benefit the world around us. Think about ways you can help these animals, such as:

Create Wildlife-Friendly Habitats.
Consider creating a place for wildlife to thrive in your yard. Provide a water source, a place for animals to live and plants that provide food. Before you know it, your backyard could be home to all kinds of insects, plants, and animals.

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Replenish.
Reduce your consumption to achieve a smaller “footprint.” Reuse items that normally are just tossed into the trash and recycle everything you can. Replenish the earth by planting a tree that will provide food and a home for many animals.

Make Wise Conservation Choices.
Finding alternative ways to travel such as carpooling, biking and walking are all great options to lessen your impact on the environment. Think sustainably! When shopping at the store, before you toss an item into your cart ask yourself, is this sustainably sourced?

Choose Pets Wisely.
Though many regulations exist around the world to protect wild animals, the illegal pet trade still takes many wild animals directly from their natural habitats. When the time comes to add a furry, feathery or scaly addition to your family, be sure you know where it came from and consider adopting a pet from your local animal shelter.

Connect with Nature.
Explore the natural world around you. Take a nature walk or hike with your family and friends to learn more about wildlife in your community. You might find that you have quite the ecosystem in your own backyard!

Learn More.
To expand your knowledge of wildlife in the world around you, visit an AZA-accredited zoo or aquarium, or explore their websites online. Take the opportunity to learn about wildlife and conservation efforts being made around the world to protect animals.
7. Illustrate what you can do to help protect the animals and rainforest!
Different animals and plants live in different parts of the rainforest. Scientists divide the rainforest into strata (zones) based on the living environment.

**canopy**: the upper parts of most of the trees. This leafy environment is full of life: insects, arachnids, many birds, some mammals, etc.

**emergents**: the tops of the tallest trees, which are much higher than the average trees (the canopy)

**forest floor**: the ground - it is teeming with animal life, especially insects and arachnids, plus large animals (like anacondas and jaguars)

**understory**: a dark, cool environment that is under the leaves but over the ground. Most of the understory of a rainforest has so little light that plant growth is limited. There are short, leafy, mostly non-flowering shrubs, small trees, ferns, and vines (lianas) that have adapted to filtered light and poor soil.
9. Guess the animals

Can you guess the name of each animal listed below? Solve each of the clue words. Then copy the letters in the numbered cells to other cells with the same number. Hint: these are the same list of animals from a previous activity!

1. This rainforest animal starts with an “H.” It is a monkey from South America and can be found in India, too. It is the loudest monkey in the world. What is its name?

   — — — — — — — — — —

   3

   12

2. This rainforest animal starts with a “J.” It is a spotted cat and a fierce predator. What is its name?

   — — — — — — — — — —

   4

3. This animal starts with an “M.” It is a brightly-colored parrot. What is its name?

   — — — — — — — — — — —

   1

4. This mammal starts with a “T.” It has striped fur and is a fierce predator. It lives in rainforests (and other environments) in Asia and is in danger of extinction. What is its name?

   — — — — — — — — — — —

   6

5. This animal starts with an “S.” It is a rodent that can be difficult to spot because it camouflages well and jumps from tree to tree. We have them here in North America too, probably in your backyard! What is its name?

   — — — — — — — — — — —

   11

6. This large animal starts with an “E.” One of three types of subspecies, it lives in India and eats plants, not animals. It has smaller ears than its African relative. What is its name?

   — — — — — — — — — — —

   5

7. This flying mammal is a type of bat that starts with an “F.” It lives in natural caves near the rainforest, and is very active at night. What is its name?

   — — — — — — — — — — —

   9

   7

8. This animal starts with an “H.” It is a bird with a huge bill, and the largest species can be found on India. It consumes a large number of insects and some small mammals! What is its name?

   — — — — — — — — — — —

   8

9. This slithering animal is a type of snake that starts with a “C.” It has scales and a large hood that expands when it feels threatened. What is its name?

   — — — — — — — — — — —

   10

10. This animal starts with an “R.” It needs to live near water so it can wallow in it. It eats forest plants and requires both forests and rivers to survive. What is its name?

    — — — — — — — — — — —

    13

    2

    14

Solve the cryptic message below: From the answers above, use the letters above numbers to fill in the blanks below.

   — — — — — — — — — — —

   7

   8

   D

   — — — — — — — — — — —

   9

   10

   11

   12

   13

   14

   D
Answers and more

10. Extend and enhance learning!

• Listen online to Disney’s version: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=skVNCjMSfnc

• Complete an online puzzle: https://www.games-kids.com/game/20552/mowgli-and-jungle-friends-puzzle.html

• Animal Diversity Web http://animaldiversity.org/

• Arkive http://www.arkive.org

• Disney’s Animal Kingdom www.disneyanimals.com

• Disney Conservation Fund www.disney.com/conservation

• San Diego Zoo http://zoo.sandiegozoo.org/animals

• Saint Louis Zoo http://www.stlzoo.org/animals

• Smithsonian National Zoological Park http://nationalzoo.si.edu/Animals

Answer Key

#2 Answers 6, 7, 4, 1, 3, 2, 5

#6 Answers 1- dogs, coyotes, jackals; 2- omnivores; 3- trunk; 4- python; 5- orangutan, arboreal; 6- tiger; 7- panther

#8 Answers In order from top to bottom: Emergents, Canopy, Understory, Forest Floor

#9 Answers 1- Howler monkey; 2- Jaguar; 3- Macaw; 4- Tiger; 5- Squirrel; 6- Elephant; 7- Freetail bat; 8- Hornbill; 9- Cobra; 10- Rhinoceros

Cryptic Message- MOWGLI AND FRIENDS

About Virginia Rep, a trusted educational resource

Education has been a cornerstone of our organization — since its founding as Theatre IV in 1975 through today. Virginia Rep is committed to exploring and expanding the ways in which theatre can positively impact education and children’s health. Each year, we tour plays and musicals to hundreds of schools and public venues in Virginia and across the country, reaching children in grades K-12. We provide study guides for educators to use in classrooms for all these plays. With an expanding repertoire of over 30 plays, we have quite a library of study guides.

About this activity guide

We have created a series of At-Home Activity Guides for parents to use as a home learning resource, referencing the study guides we create for educators to use with our plays. Though most of the activities do not require knowing the story, online resources are provided so children can read or hear the stories. Many activities are meant to be printed out, but many can also be done without printing.

This The Jungle Book At-Home Activity Guide is produced in support of Language Arts, English, Science, Social Studies, Fine Arts, and Character Development.