

JEWELS OF THE RAINFOREST



Purple-throated mountain gem

Blue-throated goldentail

Snowcap

Fiery-throated

Violet crowned woodnymph

Green fronted lance bill

Green hermit

Long billed starthroat



Hi kids!
Here's the meanings of the Spanish words in my book

- Hola (O-la): Hello
- Buena suerte (Bway-na swer-tay): Good luck
- Vete (Be-tay): Go away
- Muy grande (Mui gran-day): You're too big
- Qué pasa (Kay pa-sa): What is happening?
- No está aquí (No es-ta a-ki): She's not here
- Adiós (A-dee-os): Good-bye
- No problema (No pro-blay-ma): No problem
- Atención (Ah-ten-sjon): Hey! Pay attention!



Costa Rica

In 1987 a group of Swedish school children decided to buy the rain forest in Montverde, Costa Rica, in order to save it. Now thousands of children from all over the world helped protect 300 sq. kilometers. Children, you are inspiring! That's kid power!

Jewels of the rain forest

Hummingbirds are the earth's smallest birds. They are iridescent, which means their colors change as light hits them from different angles. It is the only bird that can hover, fly backwards and fly upside down. It sips sugary nectar from inside flowers with its long bill. Its bill often fits the shape of the flower. Its nest is a tiny cup made from moss, lichen and spiderwebs. The hummingbird egg is the size of a pea.

Frogs in the rain forest are jewel-like because of their bright colors and shiny skins. The bright colors warn predators that they are poisonous! There are 175 species of amphibians in Costa Rica.

Like jewels, these sparkling beauties are precious and some are very rare. When rain forest is protected, their chances of survival are greater.



Granular glass frog

Strawberry poison dart frog

Red-eyed tree frog

Green poison dart frog

All About THE UMBRELLA



Hi Everyone!

After two teachers, Nicole Brocco and Lois Ostapczuk, wrote to me and asked for a "rain forest" version of The Mitten, using an umbrella, I made arrangements to see the Monteverde cloud forest in Costa Rica with a naturalist.

Jan Brett

Green! The first thing I noticed at Monteverde is how green everything is. When I returned, I went to the art store and bought watercolors in every color of green. Then I mixed more colors myself.

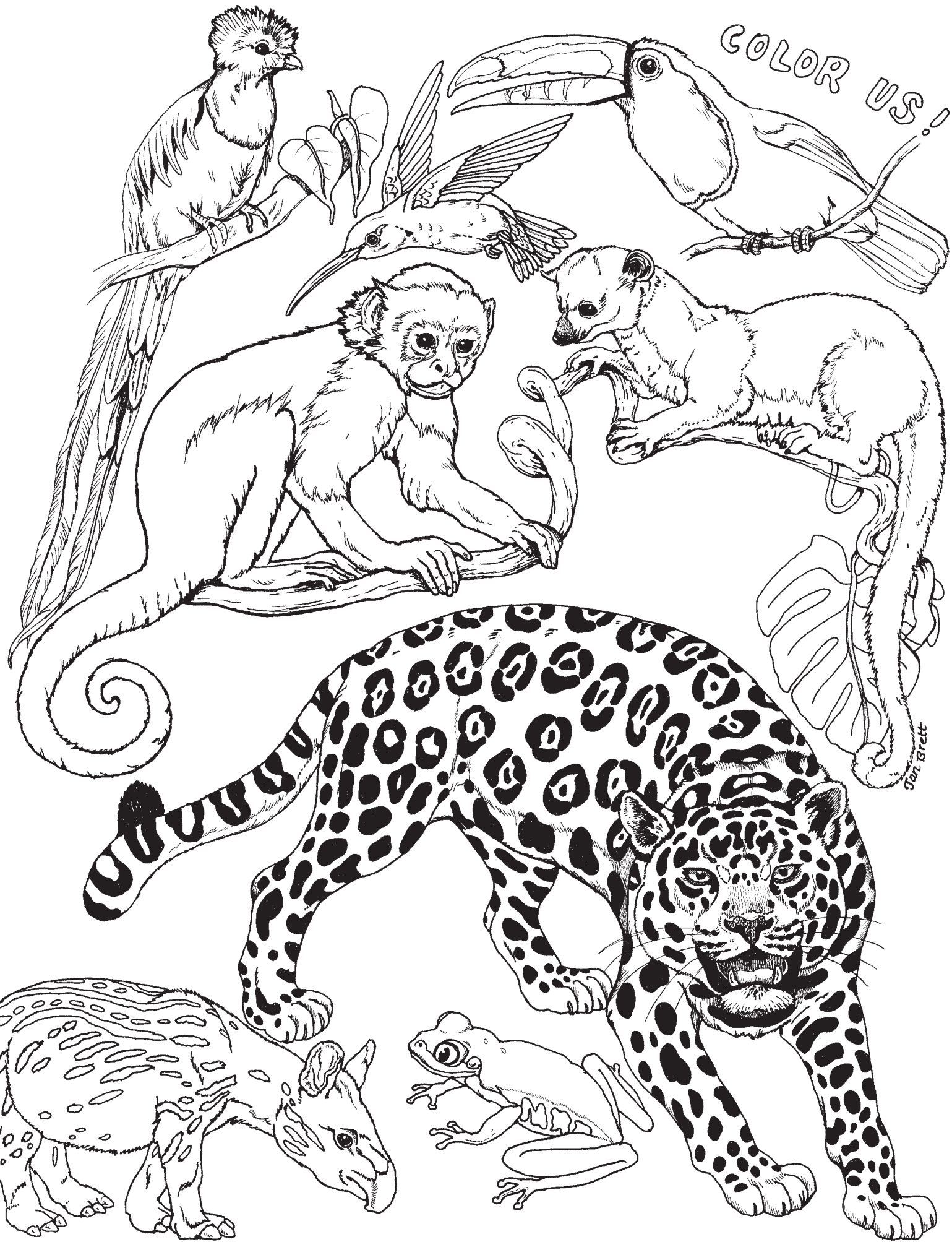
Every tree in the rain forest is covered with thousands of different plants, small, medium and large, called epiphytes. Epiphytes get food and moisture from the air. The tree gives them a platform to grow on. Some epiphytes grow in a bowl shape that holds water. These mini swimming pools support many tiny insects and amphibians.

Some creatures are boldly colored like the strawberry poison dart frog on this page. Its nickname is the "blue jeans frog." Others survive by blending in and mimicking plants. They are said to have "cryptic" coloration. We tried to be cryptic by wearing green and brown clothes.

See if you can find leaf-cutter ants on this page. The ants march in a long line to their house underground.

- Terre Verte
- Viridian
- Cobalt Green
- Green-Gold
- Olive
- Sap Green
- Winsor Green
- Emerald

COLOR US!



JAGUAR The king of cats in Central America, others are the jaguarundi, puma, oncilla, maragay and ocelot. The jaguar is a strong, agile predator, but is endangered from poaching. Conservationists are trying to create a corridor through Central America of wilderness to help the Jaguar survive. This is one cat that likes to swim.

VIOLET SABREWING HUMMINGBIRD There are 52 different hummingbirds in Costa Rica. The violet sabrewing landed right next to us, bold as brass, and sounded off. So I said, "Hey little guy, you are going to be the one to tip over the umbrella in my book!"

WHITE-FACED CAPUCHIN Truth be told, the monkey is not my favorite animal. When I was three, a chimp all dressed up in girl's clothes gave me a hug and kiss and wouldn't let go. I put the monkey in my book because he could swing the umbrella around. Of the three kinds of monkeys in Costa Rica this one is considered the most intelligent. The other two are spider and howler monkeys.

RESPLENDENT QUETZAL Many feel the quetzal is the most beautiful bird in the world. Its rich colors of scarlet and green make it unusual, but on top of that, it has a fluffy crest and sweepingly long tailfeathers, three feet long. The quetzal takes good care of its tail. It jumps off its perch backwards to protect his feathers.

KINKAJOU One of the few raccoon relatives with a prehensile or grasping tail. Can you see those large eyes? Needs to see at night when he hunts in trees for insects and plants to eat.

RED-EYED TREE FROG Looking at frogs in Costa Rica is a rewarding experience, because they come in wild colors. My favorite was the blue-jean frog or strawberry poison dart frog. It's orange-red on its head and front legs, but where pants would go, it's denim blue. He doesn't live in the Monteverde forest though, so I drew the red-eyed tree frog. There is also a glass frog, which is see-through.

TOUCAN You could almost use all your colors painting a toucan's beak! When I first saw a pair, I thought, "What does that bird have stuck on its head?" Its beak of course.

BAIRD'S TAPIR The tapir is a shy animal that lives in deep jungle. It has three toes and has no close relative. The babies are spotted to blend in with the underbrush, but moms and dads are gray-brown. It's the biggest land animal in Central America and it eats plants.