

# THE All About 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

