

## The Wonder of the Rainforest

Iyla

Hidden away in the corner of our stupendous earth, the sun's blazing rays bounced off crystal-clear water which, was flowing downwards in a fast stream. Curled, twisted vines tangled around long bendy branches, shading some of the scorching habitat. Towering palm-trees were not the only magnificent greenery that stretched across the vast land. Shrubs, bushes, tiny flowers and even mushrooms and fungi plastered the floor of the colossal landscape, making the perfect home for the minuscule bugs and insects. The sound of screeching macaws and jeering spider-monkeys filled the air. There was a murky smell of damp, rotting leaves in the atmosphere. It was the lungs of the world. The Peruvian Rainforest.

In the depths of the tropical jungle, the warm rain fell as fast as bullets. The start of monsoon season. Never-ending rain showers. From underground, a tiny red-fire ant was burrowing upwards, her head turning inquisitively side to side. When she reached the top, she scrambled back in horror! The rain water had been harmlessly falling for a few days, but now, was slowly drawing nearer towards the nest! She scurried back down her tunnel to alert her colony, and sure enough, the ground above the nest was swarming with red-fire ants in a matter of seconds. But the rainwater was slowly but surely, flooding the nest!

Suddenly, out of chaos, the ants began piling on top of each other, beginning to build a raft of themselves! The fine and delicate hairs covering the ant's bodies began to trap the moist air, and, as the red-fire ant raft began to drift down the shimmering river of rainwater, provided a cushion for the ant raft to float on. In the centre of the raft, the queen and larvae were protected, safe from dangers. Though the ants may face piranhas, otters and caiman, none will be left behind and every single one will survive the unbelievable journey.

Eric

The glistening water gradually rose up against our beloved nest like a swelling balloon! I was petrified! The heisty soldier ants desperately started to carry the larva to safety while other ants began to panic. I gazed to the queen ant to see her crawling to the top of the mound where most of us were waiting. The water was getting closer and closer to our safety swallowing anything it touched! Some of us were beginning to get stressed. I was young and born a few weeks ago, I shouted over to my mum and dad, "what are we going to do?" as I hadn't learnt the skill of what we were going to do later on. Still the sparkling water grew and within a few minutes it got to the height of a ginger, then a hand and then a book. The water level was almost the size of a box (almost the height of our nest) when every body started to sprint to the ever growing water. Meanwhile I was confused: "why is everybody going towards the water?" I shrieked to my mum and dad they did not answer. I shrieked again but still no answer. I could not resist the temptation to go and find them, so I crawled along the last piece of nest and to my horror I slowly saw them walking on the water and shouting for me. I humbly but carefully made my way on the water and to my delight found that I could float! My mum and dad explained that we have tiny bubbles\* that trap air inside them so we can float. We slowly made our way to the nest of us were, and were forming a nest. As we slowly drifted into deeper waters I thought "what a lucky escape!"

\* on our legs

Lily M

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2019

Dear diary

Today, there was a colossal flood getting closer to our home. I felt so anxious and terrified because we needed to get the larvae to safety, but we can't swim. There were ants running around everywhere it was mayhem they were climbing up on to each other like climbing a ball ladder, they were all extremely scared. Our only way to survive and escape the dark, freezing cold rising water was to try and build an ant raft. There were five ants at the bottom, five ants at the side and our fire ant queen in the center. Amazingly the hairs on our body trapped air so that we could slowly and gently drift and glide across the top of the water. Thankfully all the larvae were carried carefully and safely onto the raft and no one was left behind. We are all still on the raft and I don't know where we will end up. I can feel big dark scary eyes swimming underneath us right now and I really hate they don't get me I am so frightened.

Annabelle ant.

Yasmin

## { Community Resilience } Surviving

Ants are great examples of building Resilience for a Community. Members of a Colony are working in unity to overcome difficulties. They prove to us if you work as a team anything is possible. Holding together, protecting their ~~team~~ queen helps them to survive. Their behaviour can bring us hope that if we unite and work hard in a community we can survive events like the current pandemic. We must hold hands, protect our loved ones and work together such as the ants do.

Jesse

Hi I am Jesse the ant  
and now I will tell you my adventure.  
There was a huge flood and our houses  
were flooded. So we built a raft  
we did this by tying our legs  
together. This is very clever because  
the air gets trapped  
between the hairs on our legs.  
This makes us float. We made sure  
not to leave any one behind and  
carried the queen.

It was good teamwork but we could not  
control where we were going to end up  
this was excited for us all. the end