

The Rain Forests in Alaska

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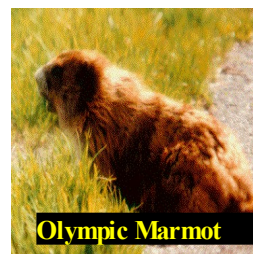
A Rain Forest in Alaska? Yes!

The Tongass is the earth's largest intact temperate rain forest containing 14% of the world's total acreage of temperate rain forest.

Temperate rain forests cover only about 3% as much land as tropical rain forests.

Temperate Rain Forest	Tropical Rain Forest
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. One long wet winter/spring season 2. Range of differences in daytime and nighttime temperatures. 3. Jungle-like appearance, but epiphytes, ferns and mosses are more common than vines. 4. Conifers such as Sitka Spruce, Western Hemlock, Red Cedar. Some deciduous broad-leaf trees. 5. Most animal life exists on the forest floor. 6. No poisonous snakes present. 7. Less vulnerable to effects of destruction, fast recovery period. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Even distribution of rainfall annually 2. Warm temperatures with less variation during the year. 3. Typical jungle look with thick vines covering the trees. 4. Most common trees are broad-leaf evergreen trees including palm, bamboo and tree ferns. 5. Greater variety of animals. Most animal life occurs in the canopy. 6. Poisonous snakes and other creatures. 7. More vulnerable to destruction, longer recovery period.

Some Rain Forest Animals:



Tropical rain forests have the greatest diversity of organisms of any ecosystem on earth.

Temperate rain forests (which are found in regions receiving more than 55 inches of annual precipitation, with mean annual temperatures of 40 degrees to 54 degrees) have the greatest biomass (the total weight of all living organisms) of any ecosystem on earth.