Tropics

Design Intent

The thick, leafy canopy dapples the ground with the little light that it lets through. Sounds of all kinds call out to you from countless unseen sources. Frogs, primates, and the most colorful of birds perch and preen, just waiting to be discovered. Deep hues of green surround the makeshift camp you now find yourself in. A naturalist's journals and observation tools sit next to local musical instruments and clothing, creating a sense of visual and cultural vividness. Keep your eyes peeled and your ears open in the Tropics. Explore the world around you and turn over every leaf. You'll never cease to be amazed.

Technology Components

N/A

Mural Features

- Macaw-Macaws are large parrots known for their long tail feathers and bright colors. They are highly intelligent birds with the ability to mimic human speech and solve problems, ranking them one of the most cognitively advanced parrot species. Most macaws feed on seeds, nuts, and fruits. Depending on the species, macaws can live 70-80 years or more.
- Gorilla-Gorillas are the largest of the great apes and are over 10 times stronger than humans. There are only two types of gorillas in the world, eastern and western, separated by 560 miles of forest. Gorillas live in family groups, called troops, with one adult male leading the group. Gorillas are herbivores that eat a variety of plants, including leaves, stems, fruits, and seeds.
- Orangutan-Orangutans are highly intelligent great apes native to the rainforests of Indonesia and Malaysia. Known for their long arms and reddish fur, they are excellent climbers and spend most of their lives in trees. Orangutans are also skilled tool users and have been observed using sticks to extract insects or seeds from places.
- Proboscis Monkey-Proboscis monkeys inhabit the island of Borneo, occupying forests along rivers and estuaries, swamp land, and lowland rain forests. The male uses his long nose to attract a mate, creating a resounding call. Proboscis monkeys are the most skilled swimmers of all primates. They generally eat unripe fruit, young leaves, and tender shoots.

Mural Features

- Indian Elephant- The Indian elephant is a subspecies of the Asian elephant, known for its smaller size, rounded ears, and domed head. Found in forests and grasslands across India and Southeast Asia, these animals are highly intelligent and form close social bonds within their herds. Indian elephants play a vital role in their ecosystems by shaping landscapes and dispersing seeds through their diet.
- Bengal Tiger- The Bengal tiger, the largest of all big cat species, is easily identified by its orange coat and bold black stripes. Each tiger has a unique stripe pattern, and adult tigers have distinctive white spots of fur on the backs of their ears. The Bengal tiger is native to the forests and grasslands of India, Bangladesh, Nepal, and Bhutan.
- Banana Plant- The banana plant is a fast-growing, tropical plant that looks like a tree but is a large herb with a pseudo stem made of tightly packed leaf bases. It produces clusters of fruits which are the most consumed fruit around the world. Each plant typically flowers and fruits once before dying back.
- Sloth-Sloths are slow-moving mammals that live in the tropical rainforests of Central and South America, especially in countries like Brazil and Costa Rica. They spend most of their lives hanging upside down in trees. Sloths typically grow to be about 2 to 2.5 feet long and weigh between 8 to 17 pounds, depending on the species. They are herbivores and eat mostly leaves, fruits, and twigs.
- Toucan-Toucans are brightly colored birds, native to Central and South America. They range in size and weight depending on species, measuring between 12.5 and 24 inches and weighing between 3.4 ounces and 1.9 pounds. Toucans are primarily frugivores and are important for rainforest health and diversity. These birds pass seeds from the fruit they eat through their digestive systems, which helps replant vegetation.
- Black Panther (Jaguar)-A black panther (dark-colored) jaguar is a big cat native to the forests and wetlands of the Americas. Recognized by its golden coat with black rosettes, it has the strongest bite of any big cat, capable of crushing bones. Jaguars eat a variety of prey, including fish, birds, mammals, and reptiles. They can even take down animals much larger than themselves.
- Lemur-Lemurs are small primates that live only on the island of Madagascar. They range in size from about 3 inches to over 2 feet long. Lemurs are mostly herbivores, eating fruit, leaves, flowers, and sometimes insects.
- Iguana-Iguanas, or herbivorous lizards, are native to tropical areas of Mexico, Central America, South America, and the Caribbean. They can grow up to 6 feet long, including their tail, and eat mostly leaves, fruits, and flowers, using its sharp teeth to tear plant material.
- Red (and Bumblebee) Poison Dart Frog-Poison dart frogs are considered one of Earth's most poisonous species and are native to tropical Central and South America. They are a range of bright, bold colors to warn predators of their toxicity. Most species of poison dart frogs are small, sometimes less than 1.5 cm in length and weigh 1 oz. on average.

Mounted Animals and Artifacts

- Mango Tree- The mango tree is a tropical evergreen known for its dark green leaves and sweet fruits. It can grow over 100 feet tall and produce fruit for decades, with some trees living for more than 300 years. Revered in many cultures, the mango tree provides shade, nourishment, and medicinal benefits through its fruit, leaves, and bark.
- Banana Plant- The banana plant is a fast-growing, tropical plant that looks like a tree but is a large herb with a pseudo stem made of tightly packed leaf bases. It produces clusters of fruits which are the most consumed fruit around the world. Each plant typically flowers and fruits once before dying back.
- Tiger Cub-A tiger cub is born blind, weak, and small at birth. It weighs between 1.75 and 3.5 pounds at birth, opening its eyes between 6 and 12 days old. Tiger cubs drink their mother's milk until they are 6 months old and leave their mother and establish their own territories between 17 and 24 months old.
- Hut-In a tropical rainforest, huts and houses can range from simple, temporary shelters to more permanent structures, often adapted to the local environment and available materials. Simple shelters might be huts made of branches and leaves.

To Find Out More

- National Geographic Kids
- NASA Earth Observatory
- San Diego Zoo: Wildlife Alliance