

## To the Water

Riverbanks in the rainforest are surrounded by lianas and colourful flowers. The waters of the Amazon and its tributaries attract animals to come and drink—and also animals which come as hunters in search of prey.



### Capybara

The capybara is the largest rodent in the world. It is closely related to the guinea pig, and can run, swim, dive, and even bark. It eats grass and its own poo—that sounds weird, but it aids the digestion.

### Tapir

Tapirs are usually loners and creatures of habit. They always follow the same tracks through the dense forest, and in time these become well trodden paths which make it easier for them to move from one place to another. They are good swimmers and use their trunks as snorkels as well as to pluck tasty leaves from plants and trees.

### Anaconda

These are among the most impressive snakes in the world: the large anaconda is incredibly strong, heavy and long. It can survive without food for months, but when it goes hunting, it uses its huge jaws to grasp its victim as it winds its body round the latter. It can also hunt in water.

### Piranhas

With their sharp teeth, piranhas are predators that can tear lumps of flesh out of their victims with a single bite. They live in large shoals, and they fulfil an important function by eating dead or sick animals, thus preventing the spread of disease. They can be a threat to caymans, large predator fish and even their own kind.

In time, white star flowers grow between leaves around the bright red petals of the hot lips plant. These are pollinated by hummingbirds and butterflies