



SWING, SLOTH! EXPLORE THE RAIN FOREST

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PHOTOGRAPHER: NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

See the book read aloud here: [Swing Sloth](#)

**** REMEMBER: HAVE FUN AND THE KIDS WILL TOO! ****

OVERVIEW

ABOUT THE BOOK

Come along on an adventure through the rain forest. Along the way, you'll meet new friends big and small, see amazing sights, and learn all about the creatures that make their home in the rain forest. Told in simple yet lively text built with sight words and using picture icons to aid reading.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Susan B. Neuman served as the U.S. Assistant Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education where she helped establish the Reading First and Early Reading First programs. She is a professor in Educational Studies at the University of Michigan, specializing in early literacy development, and former director of the Center for the Improvement of Early Reading Ability (CIERA).

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Nat Geo Kids inspires young adventurers to explore the world through award-winning magazines, books, apps, games, toys, videos, events, and a website, and is the only kids brand with a world-class scientific organization at its core.

THE READ ALOUD

BEFORE READING

Use these before reading the story to help students activate background knowledge and make predictions:

- If you think you know what this animal is called, put your finger on your nose. (reader: ask students to share)
- Where does this story take place? What clues did you use to decide?
- I wonder why the sloth is just hanging there – or is he swinging on the tree?

DURING THE STORY

Use these while reading the story to help students interpret the action and content.

- (p. 5) That's a lot of grass!
- (p. 6) What are these trees called?
- (p. 8-9) Is this a grown up or a baby jaguar? What makes you think so?

SWING, SLOTH! EXPLORE THE RAIN FOREST

TOPICS & THEMES:

- Rain Forest
- Animals

Tips for every book!

POWER PHRASES:

I WONDER...

I NOTICE...

TELL ME MORE...

DIGGING DEEPER:

"Tell me more, why do you think that?"

"How do you know that?"

"Why do you think they feel like that?"

"Interesting, did you notice anything else?"

- (p. 10-11) Look! The three-toed sloth was swinging in the tree!
- (p. 11) I wonder what those things hanging down from the tree are. Does anyone have a guess?
- (p. 15) Macaws are bright colors! What do you think they sound like?
- (p. 17) What an unusual face. What do you notice about this monkey? (eyes, black head, long tail)
- (p. 20) It's hard to see the green iguana on the green leaf. He's well camouflaged!

AFTER READING

Use these after reading the story to help students understand what they just read.

- What was your favorite animal in this book about rain forest animals? What did you like about it?

BRINGING THE BOOK TO LIFE!

- (p. 3) Let's count the three-toed sloth's toes.
- (p. 5) If you think the pygmy elephant can hid in the grass, give me a thumbs-up. If you think he's too big to hide in the grass, give me a thumbs-down.
- (p. 7) Let's fan ourselves – the sun is hot!
- (p. 12-13) Show me how a snake slithers.
- (p. 16) Flutter your wings like a butterfly.
- (p. 18) Beat your chest like a gorilla.

COOPERATIVE LEARNING

- (p. 6) Talk with your neighbor about where you have seen these trees in your city.

EXTENSION ACTIVITY

- Review the map on page 22. Combine it with a globe, if available.
- Help students find the animals in the rain forest on page 23.