

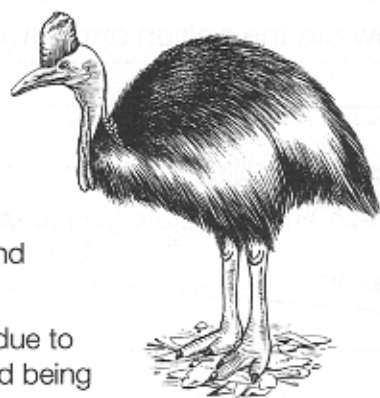
### Southern cassowary

The southern cassowary is a flightless bird that lives in the rainforests of Australia and New Guinea. Shy and solitary, it is the third largest bird in the world after the ostrich and the emu.

It would be difficult to mistake the cassowary for any other bird. Not only is it about as tall as an adult human, it has long, glossy black feathers and bright blue and red colours on its head and neck. It also has a brown, bony 'helmet' on its head, which prevents leaves and twigs from poking into its eyes when it is moving through the forest. The cassowary has sharp toenails that it can use to defend itself. These can grow to 12 centimetres in length! Cassowaries have been known to attack humans by kicking with their legs, although this is rare.

Southern cassowaries mostly eat fruit but they will also eat other things like fungi, frogs, snakes and flowers. Cassowary dung often contains whole fruit seeds, which can germinate and grow into new plants.

Unfortunately, the southern cassowary is endangered. This is due to its rainforest habitat being cleared for housing, dog attacks and being hit by cars.



### Poison arrow frog

The poison arrow frog lives in the rainforests of South America. There are many different species, most of which are brightly coloured. Poison arrow frogs are tiny. The largest species is about the size of your hand and the smallest species only grows to about 1.5 cm! Due to their size, poison arrow frogs eat small insects like crickets, ants, flies and beetles.

These frogs get their interesting name from the poison they secrete through their skin. The native rainforest people wipe their arrows or darts onto the frog's skin, supplying them with a powerful deadly poison which can kill animals quickly. In fact, the poison in just one frog is capable of killing up to 100 humans!

Female poison arrow frogs lay their eggs in or near water. When the tadpoles hatch, either the male or the female frog (depending on the species) will carry them on his/her back to a small, safe pool of water, where they can develop into frogs.



### Okapi

The okapi is the only known living relative of the giraffe. It lives in the rainforest of the Democratic Republic of Congo in Africa. This amazing-looking animal is shorter than the giraffe, with a reddish-brown body, a head like a horse, zebra-like stripes on its upper legs and a long neck. It also has a blue-black tongue that is about the length of a ruler!

The okapi lives alone or in small groups, roaming for grasses, leaves and fruit to eat, as well as clay from river banks, which provides it with the minerals its body needs. The okapi's main predator is the leopard.

It wasn't until 1901 that the okapi was discovered by western scientists, although African people from the area in which it is found were aware of its existence a long time before this.

