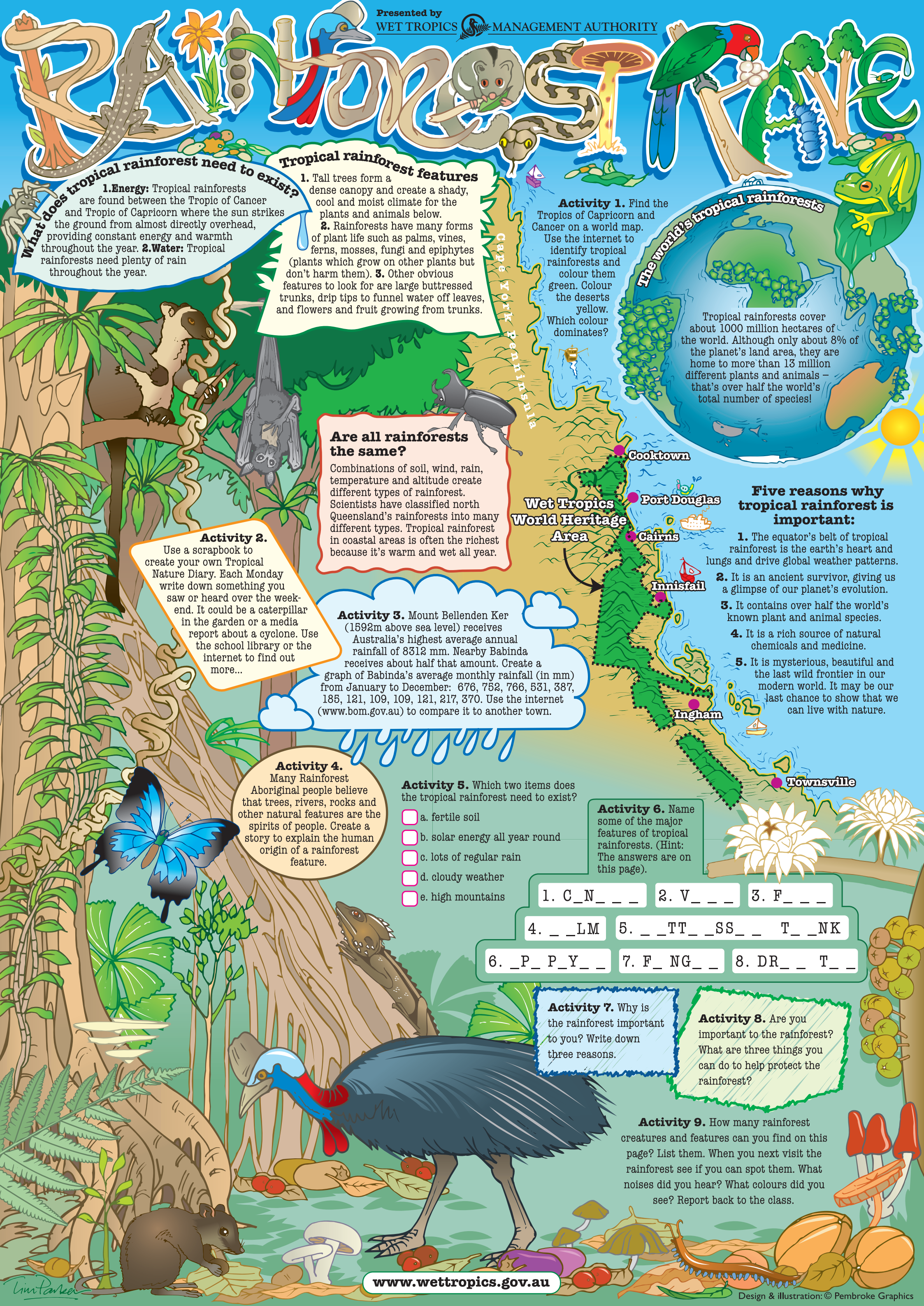




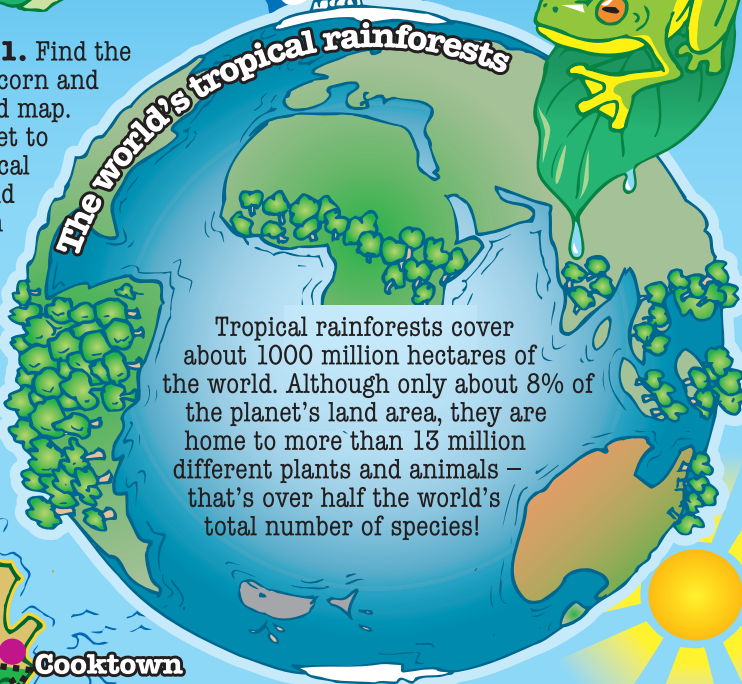
What does tropical rainforest need to exist?

1. Energy: Tropical rainforests are found between the Tropic of Cancer and Tropic of Capricorn where the sun strikes the ground from almost directly overhead, providing constant energy and warmth throughout the year. **2. Water:** Tropical rainforests need plenty of rain throughout the year.

Tropical rainforest features

1. Tall trees form a dense canopy and create a shady, cool and moist climate for the plants and animals below.
2. Rainforests have many forms of plant life such as palms, vines, ferns, mosses, fungi and epiphytes (plants which grow on other plants but don't harm them).
3. Other obvious features to look for are large buttressed trunks, drip tips to funnel water off leaves, and flowers and fruit growing from trunks.

Activity 1. Find the Tropics of Capricorn and Cancer on a world map. Use the internet to identify tropical rainforests and colour them green. Colour the deserts yellow. Which colour dominates?



Tropical rainforests cover about 1000 million hectares of the world. Although only about 8% of the planet's land area, they are home to more than 13 million different plants and animals – that's over half the world's total number of species!

Are all rainforests the same?

Combinations of soil, wind, rain, temperature and altitude create different types of rainforest. Scientists have classified north Queensland's rainforests into many different types. Tropical rainforest in coastal areas is often the richest because it's warm and wet all year.

Activity 2. Use a scrapbook to create your own Tropical Nature Diary. Each Monday write down something you saw or heard over the week-end. It could be a caterpillar in the garden or a media report about a cyclone. Use the school library or the internet to find out more...

Activity 3. Mount Bellenden Ker (1592m above sea level) receives Australia's highest average annual rainfall of 8312 mm. Nearby Babinda receives about half that amount. Create a graph of Babinda's average monthly rainfall (in mm) from January to December: 676, 752, 766, 531, 387, 185, 121, 109, 109, 121, 217, 370. Use the internet (www.bom.gov.au) to compare it to another town.

Activity 4. Many Rainforest Aboriginal people believe that trees, rivers, rocks and other natural features are the spirits of people. Create a story to explain the human origin of a rainforest feature.

Activity 5. Which two items does the tropical rainforest need to exist?

- ☐ a. fertile soil
- ☐ b. solar energy all year round
- ☐ c. lots of regular rain
- ☐ d. cloudy weather
- ☐ e. high mountains

Activity 6. Name some of the major features of tropical rainforests. (Hint: The answers are on this page).

1. C _ N _ _ _	2. V _ _ _	3. F _ _ _
4. _ _ LM	5. _ _ TT _ _ SS _ _	T _ _ NK
6. _ P _ P _ Y _ _	7. F _ NG _ _	8. DR _ _ T _ _

Activity 7. Why is the rainforest important to you? Write down three reasons.

Activity 8. Are you important to the rainforest? What are three things you can do to help protect the rainforest?

Activity 9. How many rainforest creatures and features can you find on this page? List them. When you next visit the rainforest see if you can spot them. What noises did you hear? What colours did you see? Report back to the class.