

READ THE PASSAGE Think about how the author organized the information.

Rainforest Gliders

Some rainforest animals spend their lives in the treetops. All their food is right there. They never need to go to the ground. The tops of the trees in a rainforest form a kind of roof called a canopy. The fastest way to travel in the canopy is from tall tree to tall tree.

Some rainforest animals glide through the treetops in a special way. They use their skin! A flying squirrel has flaps of loose skin between its front and back legs. The squirrel jumps from a tree and spreads its legs. The skin stretches, and the squirrel flies like a kite. The flying gecko has flaps of skin along its body and tail. It jumps and then spreads the skin like wings. The gecko soars through the air. The flying frog has webbed feet that spread open like four umbrellas. They carry the frog through the air.

SKILL PRACTICE Read the item. Write your response.

1. Why do some animals spend their whole lives in the rainforest canopy?

2. What is similar about the three rainforest animals in the text?

3. Which of the animals in the text would you most like to see glide? Why?

STRATEGY PRACTICE Look back at the passage. Underline a sentence or phrase that tells a cause for something, and draw a box around the sentence or phrase that tells the effect.