



LET'S GO TO THE JUNGLE!

Learning Objective:
To identify the locations
and features of cloud
forests.

Today, we're going to find out about a type of jungle that's very different to others you've been learning about. Let's look...



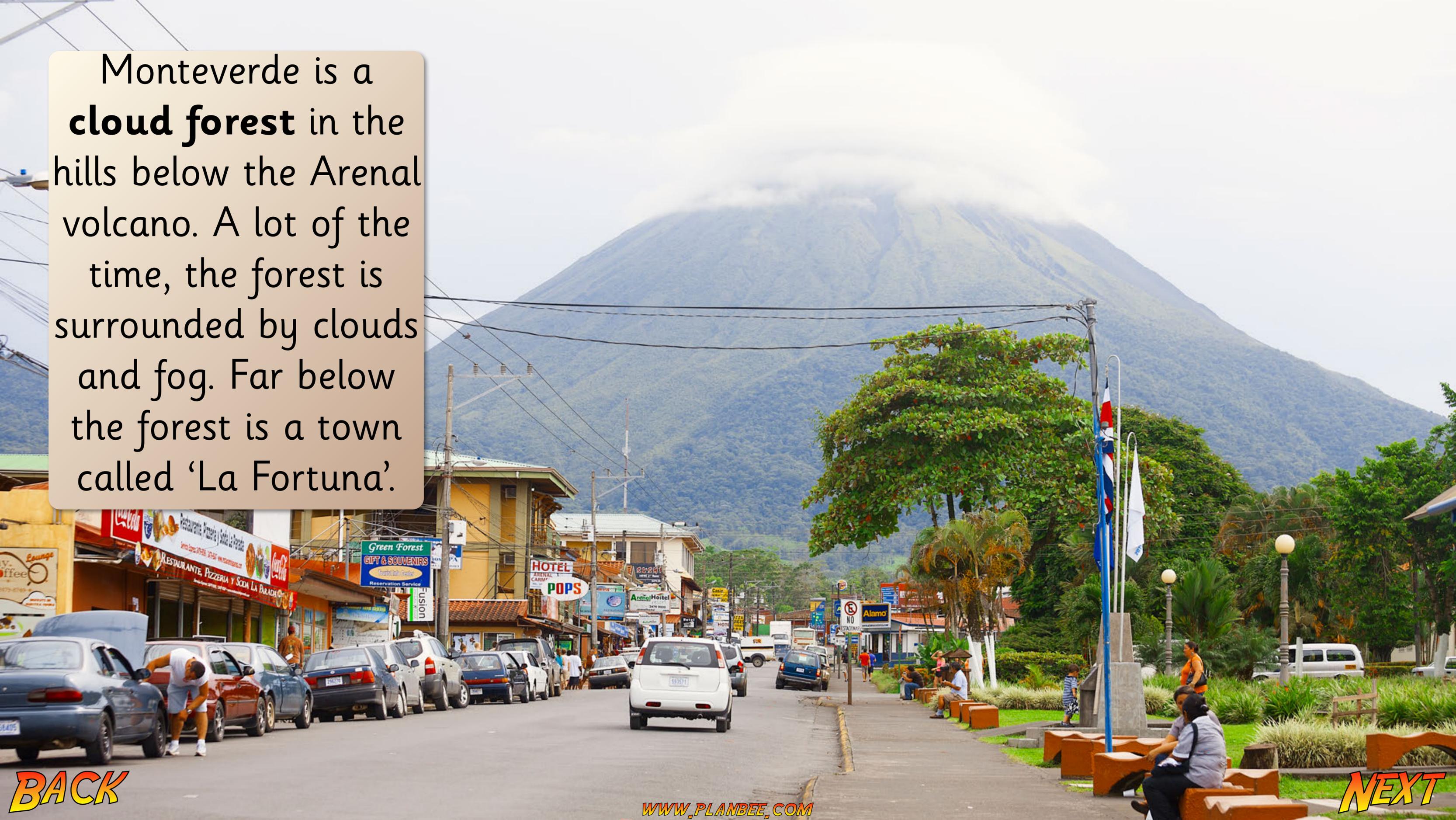


Monteverde,
Costa Rica.
**What can
you see?**

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Monteverde is a **cloud forest** in the hills below the Arenal volcano. A lot of the time, the forest is surrounded by clouds and fog. Far below the forest is a town called 'La Fortuna'.



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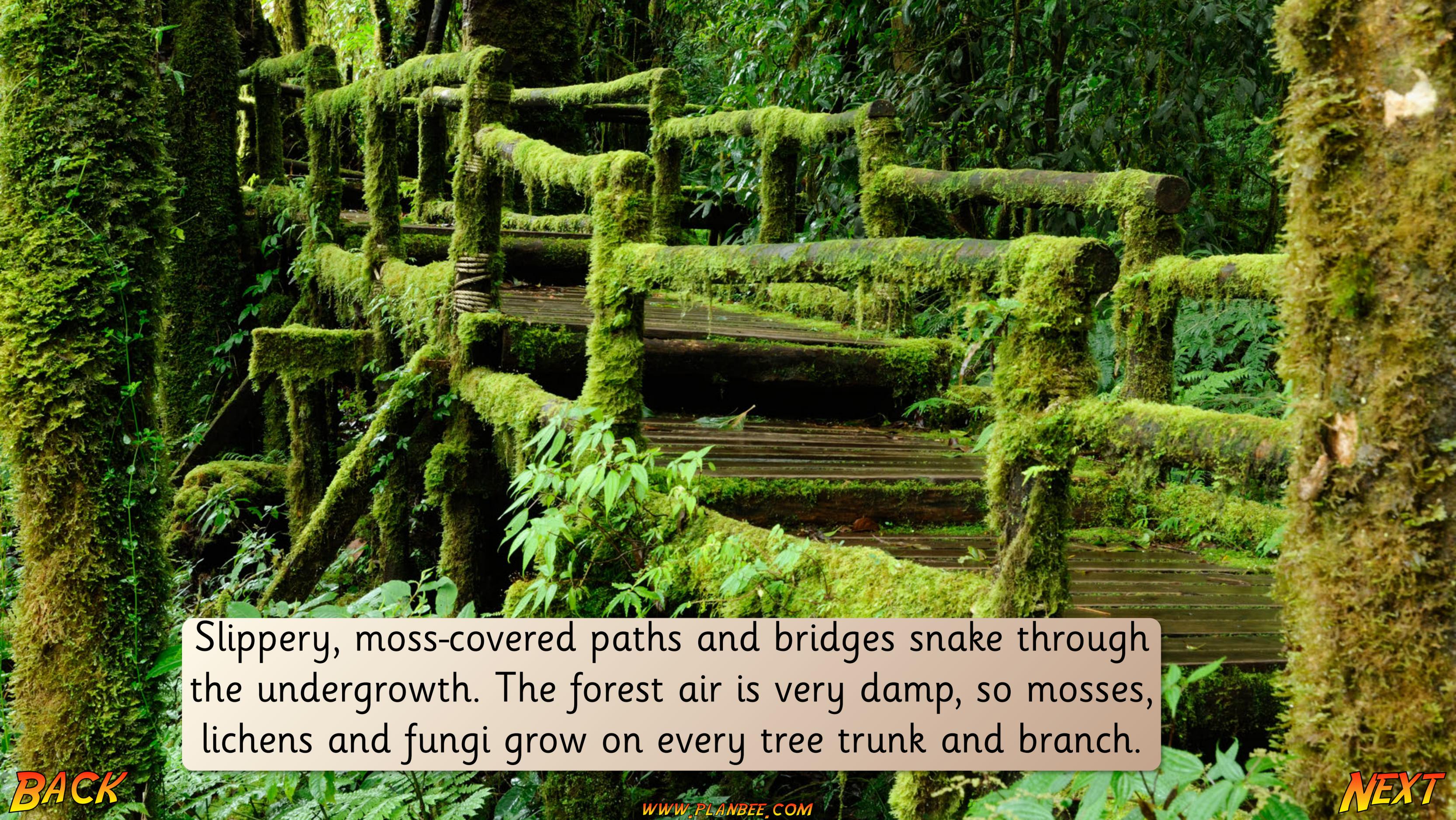
Monteverde is a national park. Visitors enter the jungle on bridges and walkways hanging between the trees.

What activities do you think visitors might do while visiting the park?

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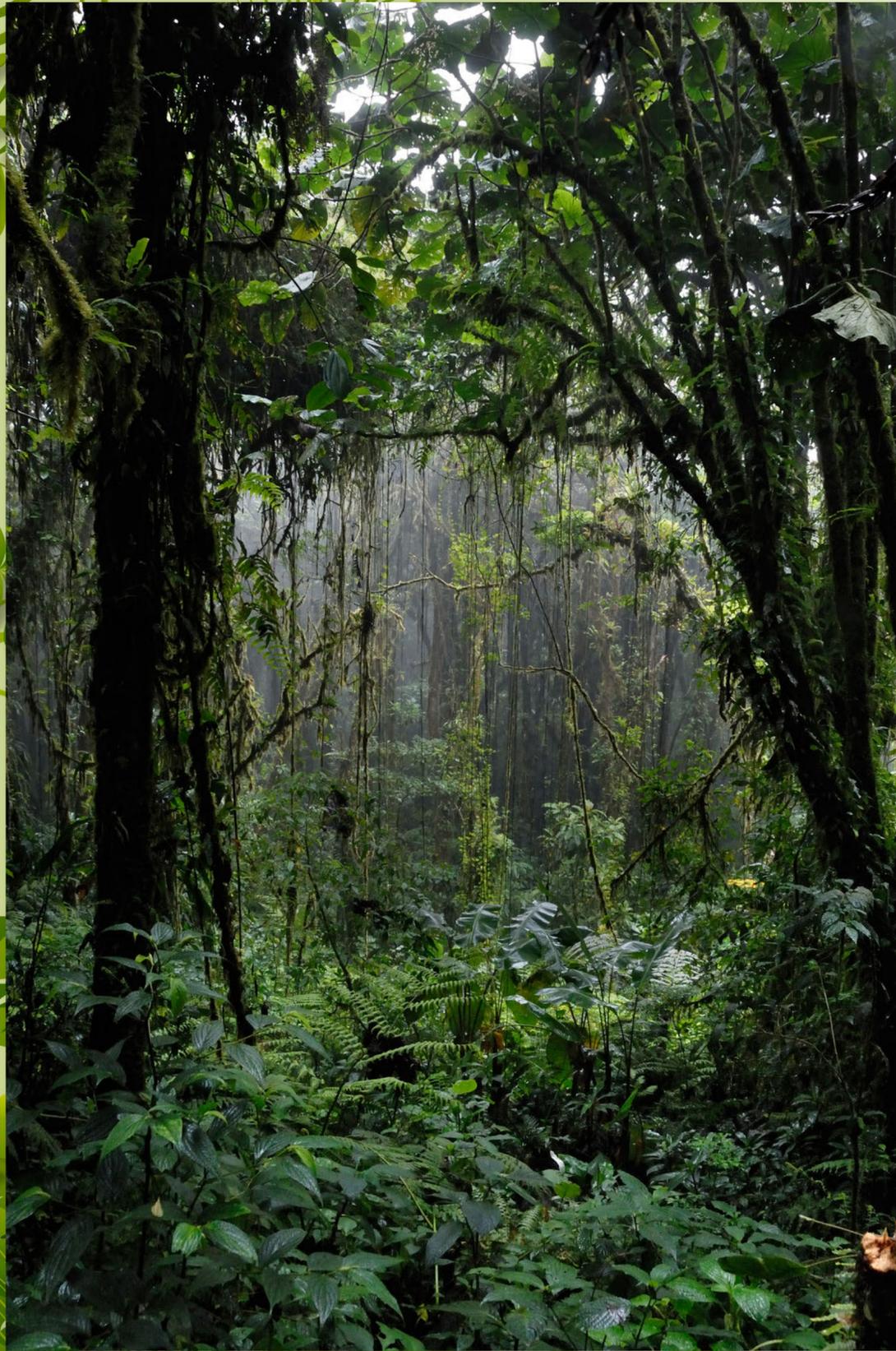
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A lush, moss-covered forest path with a wooden bridge structure. The path is made of wooden planks and is surrounded by dense green foliage and moss-covered logs. The scene is very damp and vibrant with green colors.

Slippery, moss-covered paths and bridges snake through the undergrowth. The forest air is very damp, so mosses, lichens and fungi grow on every tree trunk and branch.

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Vines hang from the trees. Ferns and other plants, many of them taller than you, cover the forest floor. Beautiful orchids grow on the lower branches of the trees.

Imagine you're standing in the middle of the Monteverde cloud forest. What can you see? Hear? Smell? What's the weather like? How does it feel?

It's cool and damp in the cloud forest. Cool breezes blow down from the mountaintops, bringing fresh air into the forest. The clouds block out sunlight a lot of the time – it's quite dark, especially down on the forest floor. Cloud forest plants are special, because they can grow well in cool, dark, very wet places.

I wonder what animals might live in the cloud forest? **What types of animals can you think of that like to live in cool, damp, dark habitats?**





millipedes



beetles



frogs and toads

Did you think of animals like these? What can you see?



caterpillars/butterflies



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spiders

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Spider monkeys climb through the trees.



This strange animal is called a **white-nosed coati**.



Hummingbirds drink nectar from the orchids.



These slow-moving **sloths** spend most of their time hanging from the slippery branches of the trees.

Because it's so damp in the cloud forest, moss and lichen grows all over their fur!

Sloths even fall asleep hanging from branches! They dig their claws into the branches, so they don't have to hold on.



Plenary

Can you use any of these words to help you come up with a sentence which describes the weather, or some features, of cloud forests?



mountain

orchid

breeze

lichen

fog

cloud

damp

vine

dark

moss

cool