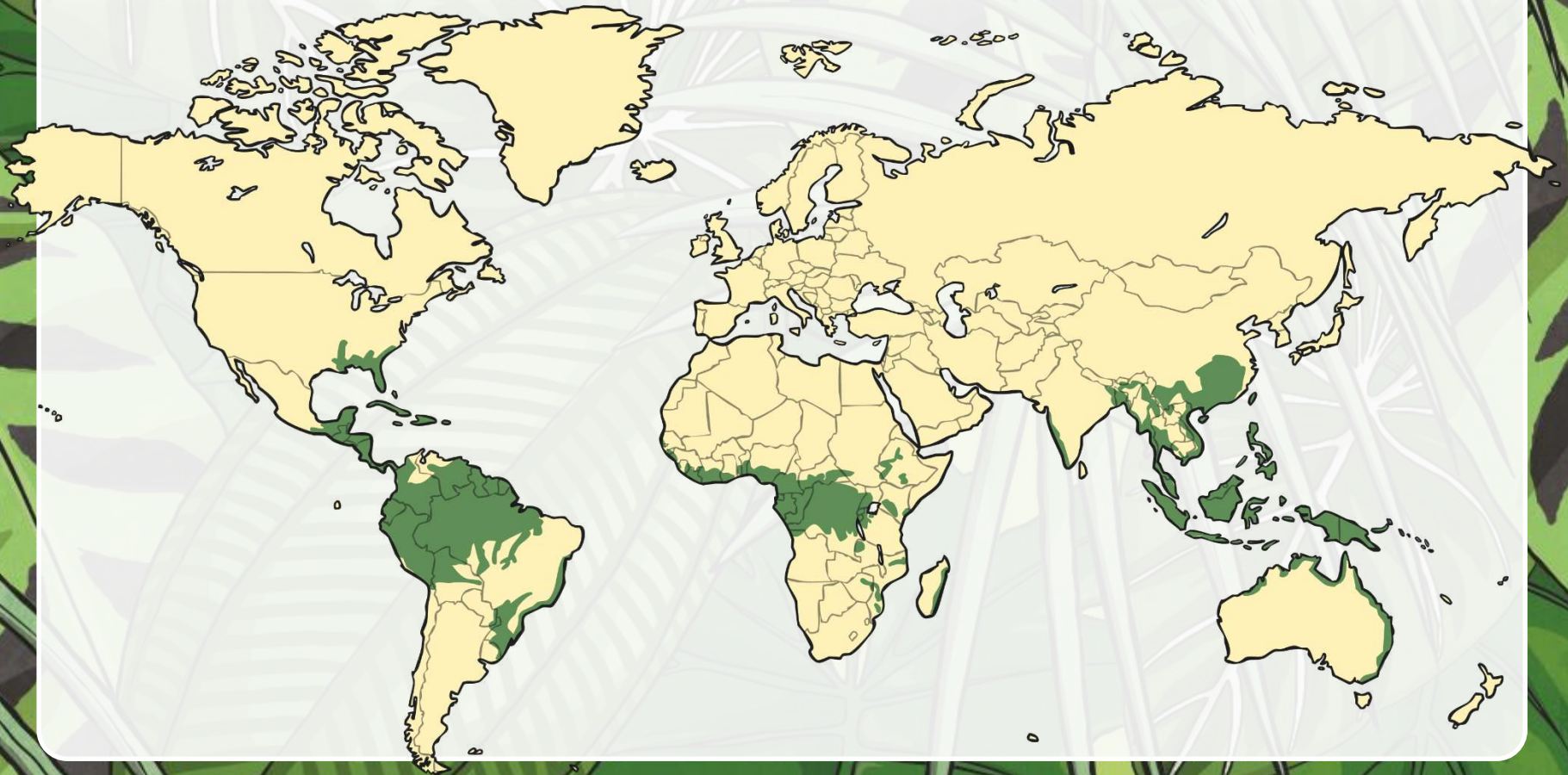


A vibrant, stylized illustration of a tropical rainforest. The background is filled with various types of green leaves, including large, heart-shaped leaves with prominent veins, long, narrow palm fronds, and smaller, more delicate leaves. The colors range from light lime green to deep forest green, with some darker green shadows to create depth. The overall style is clean and modern, with bold outlines and flat colors.

Plants of Tropical Rainforests

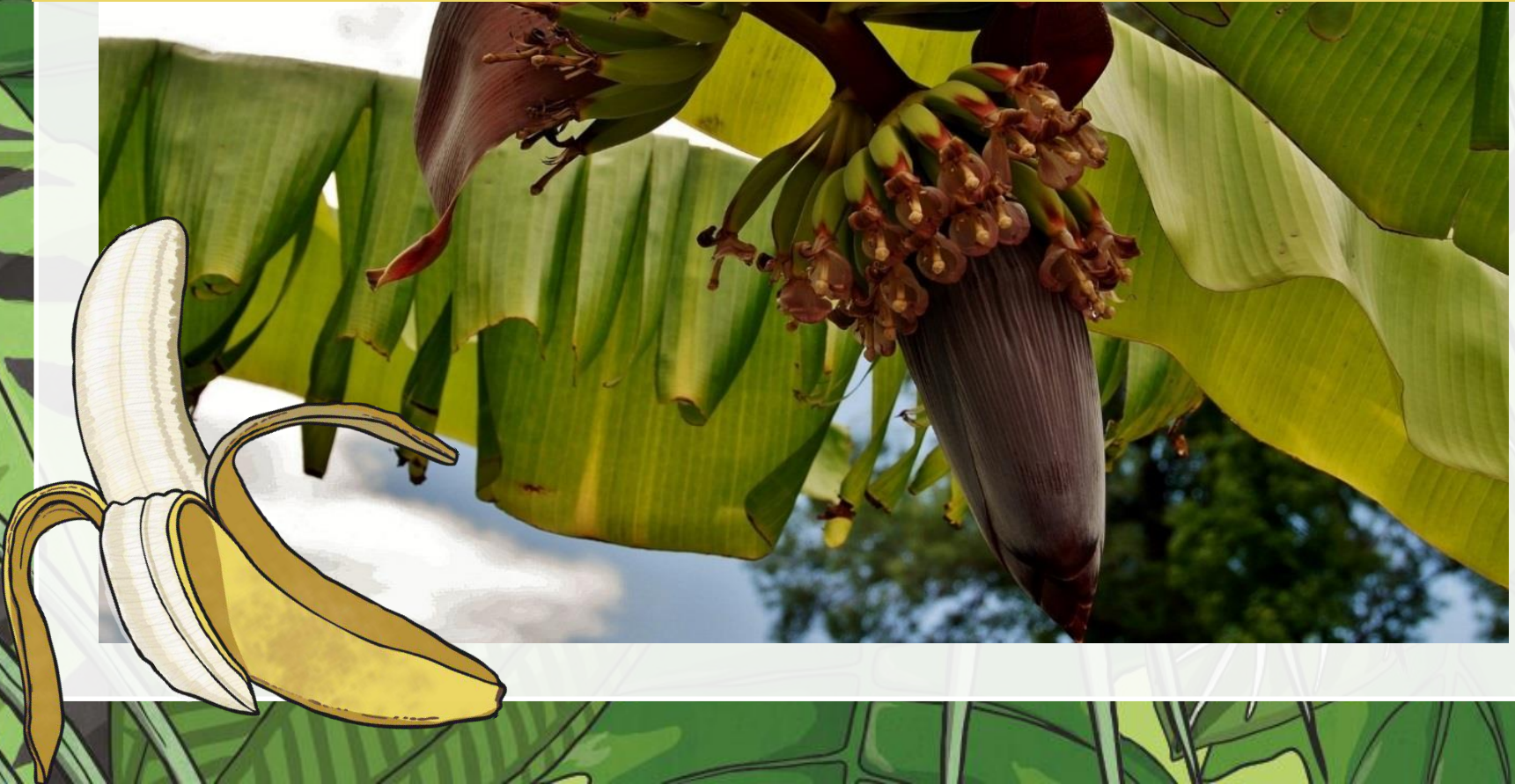
Plants of Tropical Rainforests

Tropical rainforests cover less than 2% of the planet but are home to 50% of the plants and animal species on Earth!



The Banana Plant

Bananas are actually giant herbs! The trees on which they grow can get to twenty feet high.



Rubber Tree

Reaching around 40m, the rubber tree produces milky-white sap called latex which is actually used to make rubber!



Heliconia



This colourful plant has 40 different species. It is also known as 'lobster claws' or 'parrot flowers'.

Heliconia



The claw shapes are actually 'bract' which are leaves that protect the flower inside so only specific birds, such as humming birds, can get to them

Orchids

The largest family of plants in the world. They come in every colour except black.



They can grow to over 4m long!

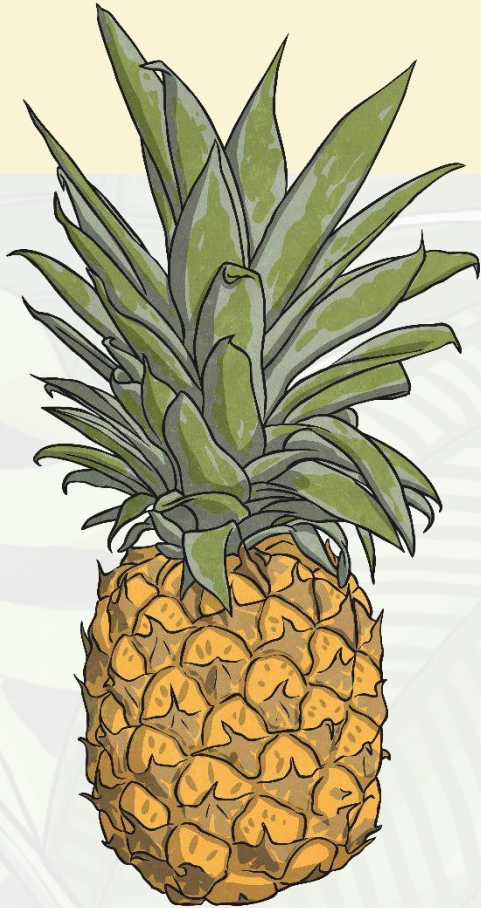
Bromeliad

Bromeliads contain more than 2,700 species that grow on the ground, on rocks and on other plants.



Bromeliad

However, you may recognise the spikey leaves as being the plant of the pineapple.



Cacao

The evergreen cacao tree grows pods containing 20 to 60 reddish-brown cocoa beans.



Cacao



It takes from 7 to 14 pods to make one pound of dry cocoa beans, which is turned into chocolate.

It's important for cacao to be harvested sustainably due to the worldwide popularity of chocolate.



Poinsettia

The poinsettia comes in red, white, pink and two colours. The coloured part looks like petals but they are in fact leaves.



They are rumoured to be poisonous but they aren't, which is good, as they are a popular Christmas plant in the UK.



Brazil Nut Tree

The brazil nut tree towers over its neighbours as it can reach 50m high. The nut is made inside the fruit the size of a tennis ball.



The outside layer of the fruit is so hard only the agoutis, a large rodent with sharp teeth, can break it open.

Sapodilla

The kiwi-shaped fruit has a yellow inside that tastes like a pear. It is considered to be the best fruit in Central America. The rainforest mammals, such as howler monkeys, eat it a lot.



Sapodilla

The bark contains a white, gummy sap called chicle. This was used by the Mayans and Aztecs to create the first chewing gum



Coffee

The coffee plant is a shrub that can grow to over 9m. Each berry has 2 beans inside. They start off green until they are roasted. Coffee plants can live for 100 years!



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Strelitzia - Bird of Paradise Flower



Named after the bird of paradise because of their outstanding beauty, they are prized for their ornamental uses. Their boat-shaped 'bract' (leaf that protect flowers) holds around 5 brightly coloured flowers.



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