

Bromeliads

In a rainforest, bromeliads do not grow in the soil, but in the crook of trees high off the ground.

They have hardly any roots, so they need to get the nourishment and water that normal plants get in some other way.

Look closely at a bromeliad (which are common garden centre plants) and watch what happens when it is watered. Pour the water slowly in over the plant, not the soil.

You will find that the water ponds up in the middle.

Can you see how the pattern of the leaves makes this possible?



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Use the book *Rainforest life* to show children what bromeliads look like in a rainforest.

Ask them why they might be different in a garden centre (convenience of selling them, etc).

Get them to watch what happens when a bromeliad is watered.

