**The Sneaglegator**

The sneaglegator is a rare form of animal that only hunts at night.

Sneaglegators are easy to identify because they have similar features to snakes, eagles and alligators. They are the size of a cat and covered in slimy scales and thick feathers. Adult sneaglegators are usually a dark green colour which enables them to hide among the trees and undergrowth of the rainforest. However, juveniles are born with a bluish tinge to their scales and no feathers.

Sneaglegators are found in most rainforests, especially in the canopy and a few have been found hiding among the undergrowth. They usually nest high up in the boughs of trees and, because they only hunt at night, are rarely seen by human eyes.

While most rainforest animals have adapted to like the rain, sneaglegators do not. Rather than getting wet, the sneaglegators hide beneath large trees to try to keep their feathers dry. Interestingly sneaglegators do not need water to survive but gain all the moisture they need from their prey. These elusive creatures are meat eaters but have been known to snaffle the occasional banana. While their wings are big and strong, they do not fly very far due to the fact that branches obstruct their wings. Instead you will find them hopping from branch to branch and using their wings to glide after their prey.

Very few humans have ever seen a sneaglegator and naturalists believe that they are not dangerous to humans. Scientist are concerned that sneaglegators might be mistaken for other species and therefore become hunted. Where nests have been discovered, their location has been kept a secret. To protect these mysterious creatures, all animal lovers should try to raise awareness of the animals. It would be a disaster if another rainforest creature became extinct.

Professor Von Trapp Lichtenstein

LO: To be able to use relevant and appropriate ideas.

Head

Shoulders and arms/front legs

Body

Legs and tail