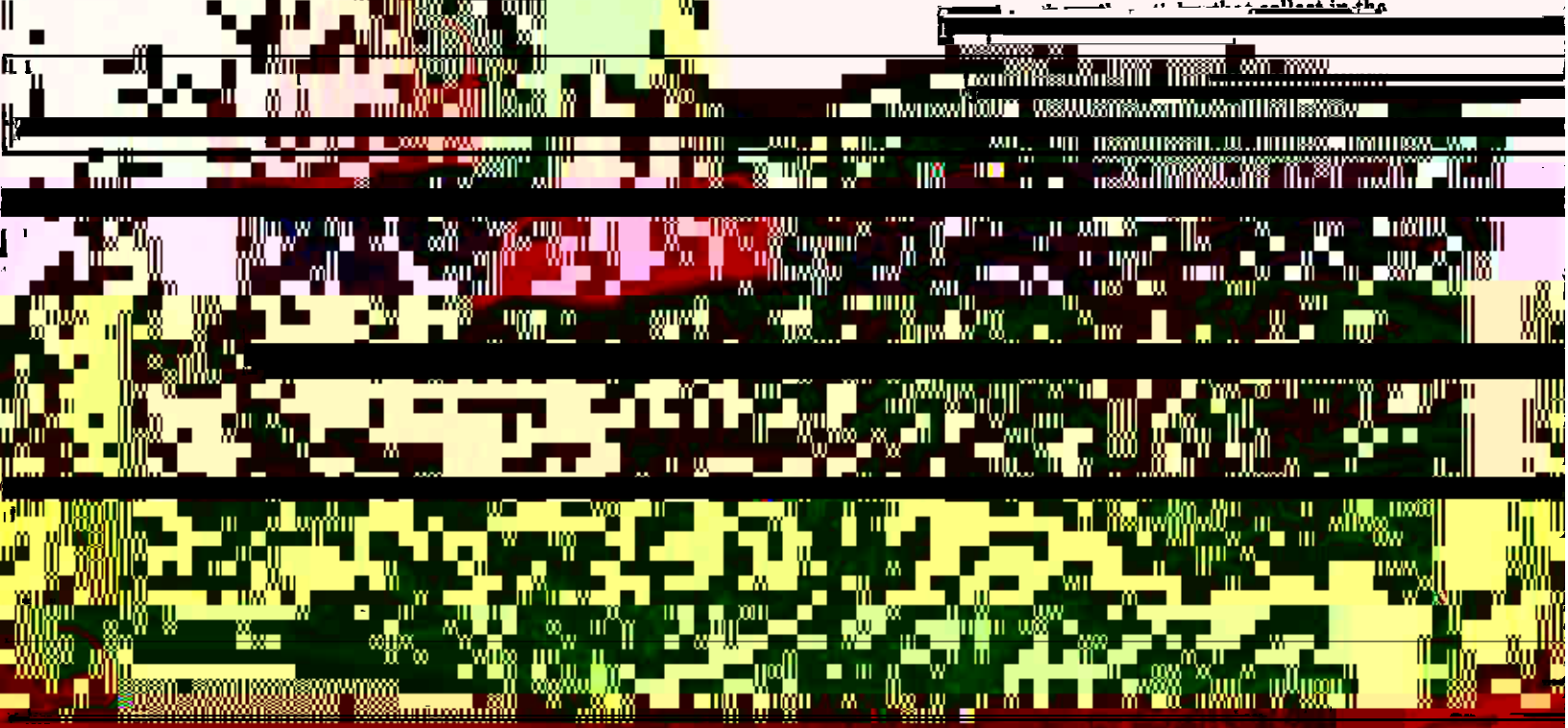


WHAT ARE EPIPHYTES?

Epiphytes are plants that grow "piggyback" on other plants. Because epiphytes cannot get nutrients from the ground (their roots do not reach that far!), they



trunks and branches of the cloud forest are thick with epiphytes, including mosses, ferns, and orchids. They are amazing sights. Many birds, frogs, and snakes use epiphytes for food or shelter.

If you would like to learn more about epiphytes or if you have any questions about the canopy, write or send an e-mail message to "Ask Dr. Canopy." A scientist working on the canopy will get in touch with you. Write to : canopy@elwha.edu (ICAN), P.O. Box 10187, Olney, MD 21051. e-mail: canopy@elwha.edu

Nalini's Bucket Busters

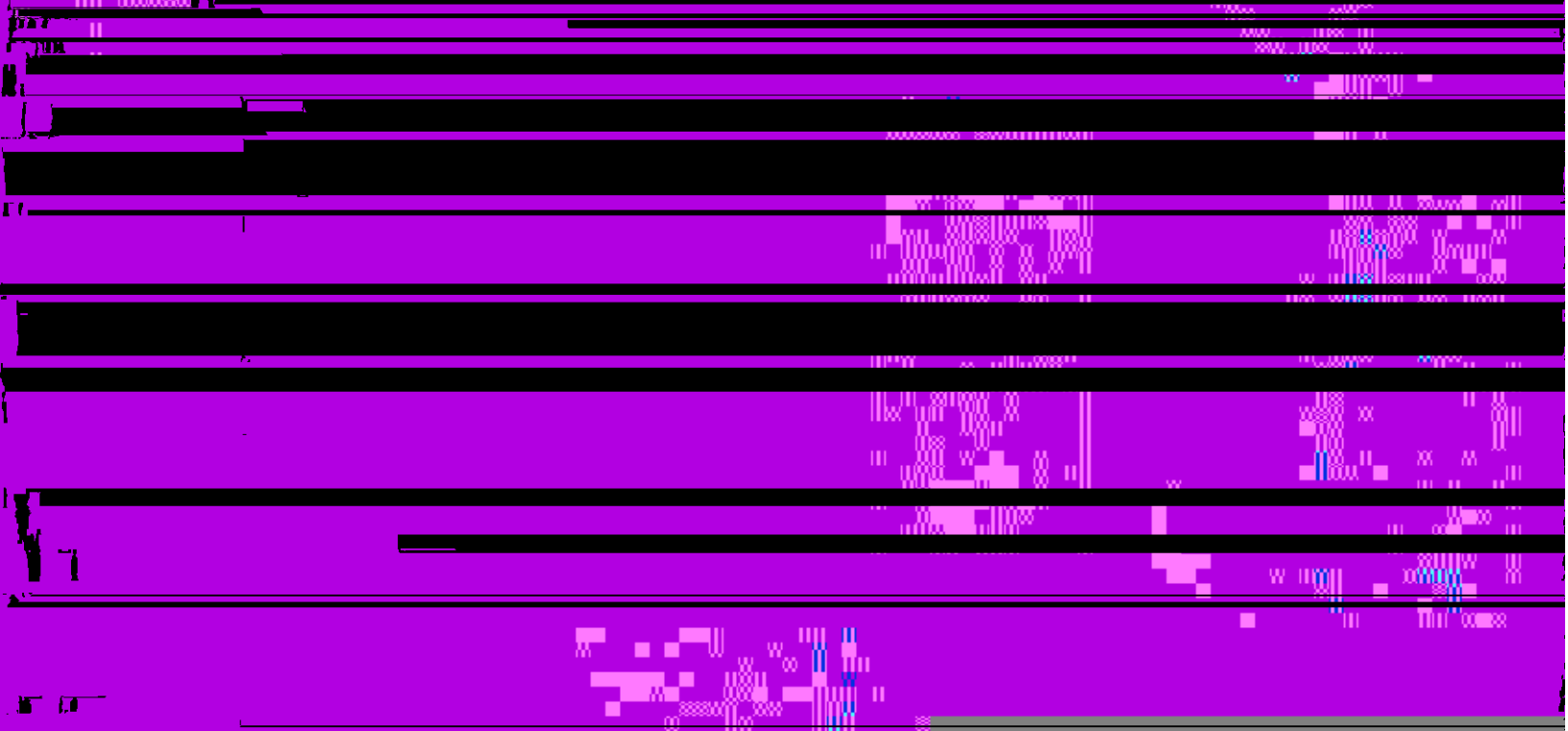
An important way nutrients move from trees to the forest floor is through leaf fall. Ecologists often measure the amount of nutrients reaching the ground by putting out plastic buckets in a random pattern beneath the trees. Try investigating leaf fall in your school or backyard. How many leaves do you think will fall in your bucket in one week? What other things do you think you will find in your buckets? Which trees will drop more leaves after a storm? How about after a frost? Try putting buckets in different places for different questions. Record your findings in a journal.

Check it Out!

In a big city, I always
walking in the woods of nearby

climb, a monkey
pot tree, towered over its neighbors.

discovered a world I
wanted to spend my life



layer of the rain forest, can tap an extra
source of nutrients from the soil that

rain forests of Washington State, Papua
New Guinea, New Zealand, and Australia. I

