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Living Among the Trees in Borneo

High above the forest floor in Borneo, some indigenous people build their homes in the trees. These treehouses are designed to keep families safe from wild animals and (1)_____ during the rainy season. Built using local materials, treehouses are strong, yet blend into the natural environment.

To enter the treehouse, one must climb a tall ladder made of wood or bamboo. This ladder leads to a (2)_____, which serves as the entryway to the home. It is wide enough for several people to stand on, providing a space to store things before entering the main house.

Inside, the treehouse is divided into different areas for various purposes. The main living area is usually a large open space where the family gathers to eat, rest, and work. The floor is often made of (3)_____ tied together with ropes, creating a flexible but sturdy surface. Low tables and (4)_____ are placed around the living area for eating meals and sitting.

Since the treehouse is high off the ground, walls are made from woven (5)_____ to keep out rain and wind. These walls also provide some privacy while still allowing airflow to keep the house cool. The roof is usually made from large (6)_____ leaves, which are excellent for keeping out rain.

At one end of the treehouse is the (7)_____, where meals are prepared. This area often has a small fire pit surrounded by stones, which is used for cooking. Families cook their food in pots made from clay or metal, and they store the food in baskets or wooden containers.

The sleeping area is located in a more protected part of the treehouse. Beds are made from mats woven from natural (8)_____, and thick blankets are used to keep warm at night. Sometimes, hammocks are hung from the ceiling as an alternative place to sleep.

Storage is very important in these homes. The family keeps their tools, clothes, and food in (9)_____ made from bamboo or wood. These containers are often hung from the ceiling to save space and keep items out of reach of insects or animals.

Finally, treehouses often have a small (10)_____ outside, where the family grows herbs, vegetables, or small trees. This helps the family to have fresh produce without having to climb down to the forest floor every time they need something.

Word Bank

kitchen, floor, garden, mats, bamboo, palm, baskets, leaves, platform, flooding, fibers