

need animals need plants

Green-Winged Macaw (*Ara chloroptera*)

This giant South American parrot feeds on tree seeds, but rather than helping to disperse seeds it is a seed predator. To prevent parrots eating their seeds, many plants put poisons in them. Macaws seem to counteract these poisons by eating clay. They gather in huge flocks each day to visit these clay cliffs.



One of a series of animal models produced by the National Botanic Gardens as part of its education programme. These can be downloaded with full instructions at www.botanicgardens.ie.

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