

Tropical Rainforests



Subject	–	Geography
Year	–	4-6
Kay Stage	–	2

Pre Activity – Finding the Forest

Objective – 1. To identify the earth's rainforests 2. To encourage pupils to link everyday medical items with their origin.

Activity Description – 1. Children identify where the Rainforests of the world are located by colouring them in on a world map. Pupils investigate why Rainforests are located so close to the Equator and why they are so important to humans. Teachers can download maps from our 'additional worksheets page'. One map is blank and the second map has the world's rainforests highlighted.

2. Approx π of the world's medicines originate from tropical Rainforests. Pupils are set a task to find out how many of the medicines they have in their homes have ingredients that originate from the rainforests.

Background – Less than 6% of the earth's surface is covered by Rainforests, yet they are home to over half the world's plants and animal species and produce 40% of the world's oxygen. The Tropical Rainforests have more types of trees than anywhere else in the world!

Post Activity – Classroom Canopy!

Objective - To reinforce understanding of the different layers within a rainforest.

Activity Description – Children create their very own rainforest environment within their classroom, identifying the different layers of the rainforest – the forest floor, the Understory, the Canopy and the Emergent Layer.

Background - Each layer of the Rainforest is a habitat all of its own and the inhabitants have specifically adapted to living in each layer. The forest floor has very sparse plant life as very little sunlight can reach this level. The quality of the soil is also very poor although a lot of 'litter' falls to the ground from the upper levels of the Rainforest and gets broken down quickly by termites and earthworms. The Understorey rises to about 20 m and is made up of the trunks of canopy trees, plants, younger trees and shrubs. Many of the plants living in this level have adapted to growing in the shade and don't need much light for photosynthesis. The Canopy layer provides shelter for the majority of the rainforest animals such as insects, reptiles, birds and Mammals. The Emergent layer is home to birds and insects who have adapted to living at the highest point of the Rainforest

Teachers can download our diagram identifying the different layers of the rainforest (found in additional worksheets)

Further resources

www.blueplanetbiomes.org

www.rainforestconcern.org

www.geocities.com/rainforest