

The Tropical Rainforest

This program includes a discussion of rainforest characteristics, animals that live in the rainforest, products that people use that originate in the rainforest and why rainforests are disappearing.

(suggested grade levels 3-5)

Please make sure your students are familiar with the following terms prior to your Zoo visit:

tropical rainforest

jungle

deforestation

emergent layer

canopy layer

understory

forest floor

humidity

diversity

slash and burn agriculture

products

recycle

reduce

reuse

PRE-VISIT ACTIVITIES

1. Have students check newspapers and magazines for articles on environmental change.
2. Use rainforest vocabulary words as spelling or bonus words.
3. Have students write sentences using vocabulary words.
4. Compile a list of products (or collect the actual products) that come from rainforests or tropical regions.

ON SITE ACTIVITIES

1. Enclosed Self-Guided Jungle Tour
2. Enclosed Jungle Path

POST-VISIT ACTIVITIES

1. Have students write a story about how their life would be different without rainforest products. (Example –no chocolate cake for birthdays)
2. Hold a classroom discussion about the enclosed “You Can Make A Difference” handout; follow up discussion by writing letters to a legislator stating views and concerns.
3. Do a species survey of your school grounds. Compare the results to the data in #3 of the Jungle Self-Guided Tour handout.
4. Create a jungle mural in your classroom. Be sure to include the various layers and place appropriate animals in each layer.