

The Rainforest A Project for the Primary Grades

Suggested Timeline

Pre-Assessment	Day 1	Day 2 & 3	Day 4 & 5
	Hook/Provocation Stories & Drawings	Topic Words & Webs	Questions & Predictions
Day 6 – 15 Discovery & Inquiry Reading, viewing, questioning, exploring			
Day 16 – 20 Research			
Day 21 – 25 NF Writing Rainforest Model Construction Poetry Writing			
Day 26 – 28 Reflection Sharing of Learning Post-Assessment			

Pre-assessment:

- Write three facts about the rainforest (see pre-assessment document).

Hook/Provocation:

- Play video song of **David Williams' Rainforest Song**
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=grsx4gAOxlk>

Start With What Students Know:

- Students share what they know about the rainforest (oral stories).
- Students create a detailed drawing about the rainforest adding description and labels.
- Add drawings to learning wall.
- Students name words that describe the rainforest (whole group). Write each word on separate post-it notes.
- As a class, organize and classify the words and create a topic web.
- Add web to learning wall (see sample).

Questions & Predictions:

- Students write questions they have about the rainforest and make predictions about the questions. Later, students will add answers found through research (see form).
- Add to learning wall.

Discovery and Inquiry:

- Use multiple resources to investigate student questions (see list of resources).
- Students may add to the topic web and to their questions during this time.
- Students should begin to choose their research topic.

Research:

- Teach research techniques.
- Students research specific topic within the rainforest. In this example, each student chose one rainforest animal and one rainforest plant to research.
- Students conduct research using multiple sources.

Rainforest Model:

- Students take what they have learned about the rainforest and plan and create a model in the classroom.
- Students should use what they know to make animals and plants to correct size, coloring, shape, etc.
- Students add labels to model.
- Write Chinquapin poems about rainforest animals.

Sharing Learning:

- Invite others to visit the rainforest model and students act as guides to share information about the rainforest.
- Visitors view poems, model, learning wall.

Rainforest Vocabulary

habitat

ecosystem

canopy

emergent layer

understory layer

forest floor

camouflage

extinct

deforestation

herbivore

omnivore

carnivore

climate

endangered

extinct

life cycle

food chain

deforestation

Rainforest

Pre-assessment

Write three things you know about the rainforest.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

