



Creatures of the Layers (Smartboard activity)

From below the soggy forest floor to way up high in the canopy, life is noisy and abundant in the tropical rainforest! But where in the forest would you find an orange orangutan, a tranquil tapir or a sleeping sloth?

Explore the ecosystem of the rainforest by looking at the structure of the tree layers. Start on the dark, dank forest floor; climb up through the undergrowth, past the understory, through the brightening canopy and beyond, finally reaching the emergent layer. Make sure you stop along the way to look at the amazing wildlife wonderfully adapted to its own layer of the rainforest.

This activity enables pupils to establish a foundation for more advanced learning of ecosystem processes and to develop curiosity and an appreciation of this amazing environment. Using Smartboard technology, pupils will place creatures of the rainforest in their correct layers.

At a glance, you will need:

- Internet access or rainforest books
- A Smartboard (we have a suggestion for an alternative activity if you don't have access to a Smartboard)

Workshop	Title	Pre/Post	Suggested CfE Stage
Journey Into The Tropical Rainforest	Layers in the Rainforest	Pre/Post	Early/First/Second

Learning Intention

We are learning about the layers of the rainforest and the animals that live there.
We are learning about animal adaptation in the tropical rainforest

Task

We are going to place the creatures in their correct layer in the rainforest scene and then have a discussion around how each is suited to its environment.



Success Criteria

- Pupils will be able to name the different layers of the rainforest.
- Pupils will be able to place particular animals in the layer they live in.
- Pupils will be able to describe why animals are suited to the layer in which they live.

CfE Capacities

Successful Learners: with enthusiasm and motivation for learning and able to think creatively while making reasoned evaluations and developing a foundation for more advanced learning.

Responsible Citizens: able to develop knowledge and understanding of the world.

Effective Contributors: able to communicate in different ways to solve problems.

CfE Outcomes

Science – Planet Earth (Biodiversity and interdependence)

I can distinguish between living and non-living things. I can sort living things into groups and explain my decisions. SCN 1-01a

I can use my knowledge of the interactions and energy flow between plants and animals in ecosystems, food chains and webs. SCN 2-02a

Literacy and English – Listening and talking

As I listen and talk in different situation, I am learning to take turns and am developing my awareness of when to talk and when to listen. LIT 0-02a

Description

Working in groups, pupils can investigate their own rainforest animal taken from the Smartboard activity (linked with this document).

With a range of amazing creatures to choose from and a Smartboard activity template onto which you could add your own animals, pupils work collaboratively to investigate the layers of the rainforest and the adaptations of the animals found there. From the Harpy eagle, tapier, snake, bush-baby, parrot, orangutan, birdwing butterfly and leopard pupils will uncover what their creature ate, its size and where it lives in the rainforest. Pupils could also investigate camouflage and adaptations.

Once all the groups have completed their research, the class can gather around the Smartboard with the rainforest diagram on display. Each group should get the opportunity to come up to the Smartboard, drag their animal into the correct layer and describe to the class what they have discovered.

Additional activities:

Each group could make a poster of their chosen animal with a picture of the animal and fun facts. This could be used as a visual aid when pupils describe their animals.

Don't have a Smartboard?

How about encouraging your pupils to create a freeze using leaves, twigs and scrap bits of paper? You can then treat your wall as a Smartboard with cut out creatures.

Web Resources

Layers of the rainforest

<http://www.dynamicearth.co.uk/userfiles/documents/kids/rainforests/layeroftherainforest.pdf>

http://www.rainforest-alliance.org/education/documents/rainforest_layers.pdf

Bush Babies



<http://www.bbc.co.uk/nature/wildfacts/factfiles/329.shtml>

Tapir

<http://animals.nationalgeographic.com/animals/mammals/tapir.html>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/nature/wildfacts/factfiles/609.shtml>

Green Tree Snake

<http://www.wildlife-australia.com/green%20snake.htm>

<http://photography.nationalgeographic.com/photography/enlarge/green-snake-nichols.html>

Butterfly

<http://www.foundationosa.org/rainforest.htm>

<http://www.rainforestfoundationuk.org/index>

Harpy eagle

http://www.peregrinefund.org/explore_raptors/eagles/harpyeag.html

<http://www.earthsendangered.com/profile.asp?ID=9&sp=136>

Orangutan

http://www.iucn.org/about/work/programmes/species/news_events/?3246/New-ape-population-environments-and-surveys-database

http://www.wwf.org.uk/what_we_do/safeguarding_the_natural_world/wildlife/orang_utan/

Leopard

<http://animals.nationalgeographic.com/animals/mammals/clouded-leopard/>

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2010/apr/12/clouded-leopard-rare-photograph>

Parrots

http://animals.nationalgeographic.com/animals/wallpaper/king-parrot_image.html

<http://kids.mongabay.com/elementary/203.html>

