

Rainforest: Maps, Mural, & Museum



Classroom Museum Bundle 3 Text Levels ~ Grades Preschool-5

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Thanks for taking the time to check out this Rainforest product. I hope you and your kids will enjoy the included sample for grades 2-3!

Overview of Materials

A Rainforest Rendezvous: Maps, Mural, and Mini Museum has many materials you can use to set up a child centered classroom museum exploring life in the rainforest.

Parent Newsletter: Since you will need a number of items to create this enriching science environment, a parent newsletter (pages vi-vii) is included that will explain the center, and list materials that parents may be willing to lend or donate. **Send the newsletter home a month or two before you begin the unit.** This will allow you to begin to put the items together, and get some parental help doing so. It can be a lot of work to prepare the materials, but once you have them, they will last throughout your teaching lifetime, and next year, all you'll have to do is bring out the box and set things up. And your collection will grow as the children contribute their own artifacts and learning materials made as a part of your museum activities.



The items included in this unit are made up of three parts: Mural, Museum Artifacts & Activities, and Maps



Mural:

The rainforest mural presents the background for your classroom museum. Complete directions are included for building the mural out of paper and silk plants. You can build the mural yourself, build it with your students (create each layer as you study it, add plants and animals as you learn about them, or make the whole mural before the unit to get everyone excited about it), or have classroom volunteers make it for you. The instructions are step by step, with photographs of each action.

Also included in the mural materials are:

- **Mural Cutouts**—plants and animals that may be printed, laminated, and cut apart to place on your mural. (Silk plants work MUCH better than plant cut outs and are a lot easier.)



- **Museum Wall Display Cards**—patterned after museum display plaques, they tell about the plants and animals included in the mural cut outs and come in 3 versions: **Preschool-Grade 1**; **Grades 2-3**; and **Grades 4-5**. Choose the file appropriate to your grade level.

Museum Artifacts: Instructions are included for parents (and/or students) to make some objects for your museum for student use. They include:



- a **Plant Press**—students can dry plants (and dead insects) for use in creating learning materials, art projects, and microscope slides



- a **Terrarium**—observe the water cycle, plant adaptations, changes and growth over time, and create a critter habitat



- a **Table Cloth**—create a table cover to represent the forest floor (easy and fun to make with students of all ages)

- a **Wonder Tree**—students write down questions and things they wonder about in relation to rainforests. They record answers on the back of each question as they find them.



These artifacts may be made by parent volunteers ahead of time, or you can make them together with your students. The first page of each file offers suggestions about how to use each artifact.

Museum Activities: There are seven files containing activities for children to do in your museum. They include:



Mask / Puppets



Plants & Animals Sorting Cards



Sorting Mats



Satellite Maps



Interesting Facts Puzzle



Task Cards



Flannel/Magnetic Board Pieces

Text materials come in 2-3 versions and are color coded: **Preschool-Grade 1** **Grades 2-3** **Grades 4-5**
 Only print out the materials appropriate to your grade level. Each file has preparation directions, and suggestions for a variety of ways to use the item. I hope you and your students will find the materials fun, and educational!

A Rainforest Rendezvous

Alignment with Common Core State Standards

These materials can be used to develop the following **Common Core State Standards**.

Reading Informational texts

- Kindergarten: With prompting and support, describe the relationship between illustrations and the text in which they appear (e.g., idea in the text an illustration depicts).
- Kindergarten: With prompting and support, identify the main topic and retell key details of a text.
- Grade 1: Use the illustrations and details in a text to describe its key ideas.
- Grade 1: Identify the main topic and retell key details of a text and/or image.
- Grade 1: Distinguish between information provided by pictures or other illustrations and information provided by the words in a text.
- Grade 2: Ask and answer such questions as who, what, where, when, why, and how to demonstrate understanding of key details in a text .
- Grade 3: Use information gained from illustrations and the words in a text to demonstrate understanding of the text (e.g., where, when, why, and how key events occur).
- Grade 4: Interpret information presented visually, and explain how the information contributes to an understanding of the context in which it appears.
- Grades 4-5: Quote accurately from a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.
- Grades 4-5: Determine two or more main ideas of a text and explain how they are supported by key details; summarize the text.
- Grade 5: Quote accurately from a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.

Speaking and Listening

- Kindergarten: Speak audibly and express thoughts, feelings, and ideas clearly.
- Grades K-1: Participate in collaborative conversations with diverse partners about topics and texts with peers in small and larger groups.
- Grade 1: Describe places, things, and events with relevant details, expressing ideas and feelings clearly.
- Grade 2: Recount or describe key ideas or details from a text read aloud or information presented orally or through other media.
- Grade 3: Determine the main ideas and supporting details of a text read aloud or information presented in diverse media and formats, including visually.
- Grade 3: Speak in complete sentences when appropriate to task and situation in order to provide requested detail or clarification.
- Grade 4-5: Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on topics and texts, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly.
- Grade 4: Report on a topic or text in an organized manner, using appropriate facts and relevant, descriptive



Green Anaconda (Eunectes murinus): Photo by Eduardo Mendes, via Wikimedia Commons.



A Rainforest Rendezvous

Maps, Mural, & Mini Museum

Book List

Preschool-First Grade

Aloian, Molly. *A Rainforest Habitat (Introducing Habitats)*. New York: Crabtree, 2006. *Detailed, informative, and easy to read, this book is sure to delight young science readers.*

Aloian, Molly. *Rainforest Food Chains*. New York: Crabtree, 2006. *Children can learn a lot about the rainforest through this great informational book.*

Cherry, Lynne. *The Great Kapok Tree: A Tale of the Amazon Rain Forest*. Mooloolaba, Australia: Sandpiper, 2000. *A man goes into the rain forest one day to chop down a kapok tree. He grows tired and falls asleep. As he sleeps, all the animals of the forest come to plead with him to spare his tree. When he wakes up, he's astonished to see all the lovely animals. He leaves the tree, and leaves the forest as it is. This is a beautiful picture book.*

Grades 1-3

Berkes, Marianne. *Over in the Jungle: A Rainforest Rhyme*. Nevada City: Dawn Publications, 2007. *This is an innovation of the song, "Over in the Meadow." The author describes the animals of the rainforest, the different layers, and how important it is to the world. It is illustrated with clay, and then photographed.*

Brett, Jan. *The Umbrella*. Kirkwood, NY: Putnam, 2004. *A young boy is disappointed when he doesn't see any animals in the rainforest. He drops his leafy umbrella, and climbs a tree to search further. While he's in the tree, the animals gather under his umbrella, arguing over the space. Beautiful illustrations.*

Castaldo, Nancy F. *Rainforests: An Activity Guide for Ages 6-9*. Chicago: Chicago Review Press, 2003. *The book takes children through the layers of the rainforests, and to various rainforests around the world. It contains activities and projects including crafts and recipes.*

Gibbons, Gail. *Nature's Green Umbrella (Mulberry books)*. New York: HarperCollins, 1997. *Beautiful, full color, water-color images bring students into the glory of the tropical rainforest. Fifty different plants and animals are presented.*

Mitchell, Susan K. and McClellan, Connie. *The Rainforest Grew All Around*. Mount Pleasant, SC: Sylvan Dell, 2007. *An adaptation of the song, "The Grass Grew All Around," this lovely picture book is an excellent tool to introduce children to the rainforest.*

Silver, Donald. *Tropical Rain Forest*. New York: McGraw-Hill, 1998. *Beautiful drawings, step by step directions, experiments, and activities will help children connect with life in the tropical rainforests.*

Grades 4-5

Albert, Toni. *The Remarkable Rainforest: An Active-Learning Book for Kids, New Edition*. Mechanicsburg, PA : Trickle Creek Books, 2003. *This book, which includes the author's journal of her rainforest visit, brings children into the rainforest, educating them about the plants and animals, its importance, and the degradation of the ecosystem.*

Marent, Thomas. *Rainforest*. New York, DK Publishing, 2010. *Mr. Marent has spent his life traveling and photographing the rainforests of the world. The plants and animals are presented in their natural element—a little peek into what most of us will never see in person.*

Simon, Seymour. *Tropical Rainforests*. New York: HarperCollins, 2010. *Large photographs of this amazing biome, along with informative text, invite students into the layers of the world's tropical rainforests.*

Museum Artifacts: Many Ways to Contribute to our Class

We are creating several tools for the children to use as they explore the plants and animals of the rainforest. I hope one of these items might be of interest to you.

Plant Press

I would like to make at least one plant press for the children to use as they learn more about the huge variety of plants in the rainforest. We need some pine shelving, 3.5 inch bolts (4), wing nuts to fit the bolts (4), washers



to fit the bolts (8), and sand paper for each press we make. The shelving must be cut into two square pieces (8"-10" square), and holes drilled into each corner so that the bolts can connect the two pieces and be tightened with the wing nuts. If you are interested in donating some of the materials, or making a press for our classroom, please let me know as soon as you can.

Tablecloth

We need a piece of muslin fabric, or an old white sheet, that can be stained with coffee to create a representation

of the forest floor. If you can donate the fabric or make the tablecloth at home, just let me know. I'll send complete directions.

Wonder Tree

Our museum will have a tree where the students can display questions they have about life in the rainforest. It involves anchoring twigs in a bucket of plaster. The tree should be 4-5 feet tall.

Thanks again for all your interest and support in your child's learning. If you are able to help with these projects in any way, just fill out the form below.

Terrarium Reflects Life in Rainforest

As a part of our science explorations into the rainforests, the students will be making a terrarium that we will be able to keep at school for the rest of the year. A terrarium is a tiny slice of the ecosystem it represents and will give us an opportunity to observe life in a rainforest, even if it is a really small one! It will provide a temporary home for any insects we want to observe. It will give us a little glimpse into the water cycle, as we watch the water evaporate, reform, and "rain" in

our closed environment. It will also teach us more about what plants need to grow, what life is like in a very moist environment, and how to take care of living things. We need:

- an aquarium, or clear container
- small gravel, 1" in size
- potting soil
- 2"-4" potted plants that grow in very wet conditions
- twigs with lichen or moss on them

A terrarium will teach us more about what plants need to grow, what life is like in a very moist environment, and how to take care of living things.

- 3"-6" stones

Thanks for any help you can give us! If you'd like to come to class the day we build it to help, let me know!

Here's how I can help!

I would like to help with the rainforest museum by

printing laminating cutting donating _____ lending _____

I can make a _____



Name _____

Phone Number _____



Rhinoceros: Image derived from Photo by Petr Kratochvil, via Public Domain Pictures.net



Red Eyed Tree Frog

Red eyed tree frogs live in trees.

Their big, red eyes scare their enemies away.

They hide under leaves in the day time. They hunt for crickets at night.



Red-eyed Tree Frog (Agalychnis callidryas) (above and below): Photos by Carey James Balboa, via Wikimedia Commons.



Red Eyed Tree Frog

These pretty frogs with their bright red eyes live in Central America. They are nocturnal (nock TUR nuhl), hunting crickets at night. They catch them with their long, sticky tongues. Many night time predators would like to eat this frog, but they are frightened by its bright colors.

The big red eyes also scare predators away. During the day, these tree frogs hide underneath tree leaves. They have sticky, little “suction cups” on their toes to hold them tightly to their leaf.



Red-eyed Tree Frog (Agalychnis callidryas): Photo by Carey James Balboa, via Wikimedia Commons.

Red Eyed Tree Frog

These rainforest frogs with big scarlet eyes are mainly found in Central America. Their red eyes warn predators to keep away! During the day, these tree frogs hang underneath leaves, using the tiny “suction cups” on their toes to keep them secure, so their brightly colored bodies are safely out of sight. Many of the animals that feed on this frog hunt at night. They are startled by the frog’s bright colors, giving it time to hop away. These frogs are not venomous. They hunt crickets and small insects at night, as they reach out with their long, sticky tongues.



Red-eyed Tree Frog (Agalychnis callidryas): Photo by Carey James Balboa, via Wikimedia Commons.