

Rainforest Mural



Rainforest Mural Background

1. Use the paper and scissors to cut out the background. If you are using a large sheet of paper, you may want to use a large sheet of paper to cut out the background.
2. Cut out an area of the background that is about 1/2 the width and 1/2 the height of the mural. This will be the background for the mural.

3. Cut out a piece of paper that is about 1/2 the width and 1/2 the height of the mural. This will be the background for the mural.
4. Cut out a piece of paper that is about 1/2 the width and 1/2 the height of the mural. This will be the background for the mural.

Rainforest Mural Ground Plants and Animals

1. Make a hole in the middle of the paper. Cut out a piece of paper that is about 1/2 the width and 1/2 the height of the mural. This will be the background for the mural.
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Rainforest Mural Canopy Trees

1. Cut out a piece of paper that is about 1/2 the width and 1/2 the height of the mural. This will be the background for the mural.
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Directions and Cut Outs

Rainforest Mural

Background



1. Cover the entire mural area with black butcher paper. If you wish, you may place a strip of blue across the very top to highlight the emergent layer of the rainforest.



Rainforest Mural

Ground Plants and Animals



4. Crumple a large oval piece of green butcher paper from side to side. It should be the length of a palm leaf in proportion to the trunk you just made.
5. Staple it together in some of the folds to form an oval leaf shape.
6. Make an odd number, about 7-11, of these leaves.
7. Staple them to the mural wall to form the crown for the trunk. Shorten and bend some of the lower, front leaves and staple them to stick out from the wall. If you want them to stick out more, attach thick floral wire to the back of each leaf with packing tape. Staple or tape the wire to the wall, and bend the leaf outward.



For the more ADVENTUROUS among you:

It requires much more time and patience to create this tree as one that stands on its own, but if you care to try, it's not hard, just time consuming! If you want to try it, finish it after you've completed the canopy trees (see the next section).

8. If you want to hang the leaves from the ceiling, attach heavy floral wire to the back of each leaf using packing tape. Leave a few inches of the wire sticking out.
9. Twist the floral wire together to attach all the leaves. Then bend the wire slightly to make the leaves drape downward. Hang from the ceiling. (See "Hanging Mural Items from the Ceiling" in the Appendix.) Since this is an understory tree, it should only reach about halfway to the canopy.
10. Make as many understory trees as you wish.



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Step-by-Step Directions

You, your students, or classroom volunteers can follow these directions to create your own classroom rainforest using paper, silk plants, and animal cut-outs.

Rainforest Mural

Canopy Trees



1. Crumple up newspapers and staple them to the wall along the line where the black meets the blue paper.
2. Cover the newspaper with large sheets of green butcher paper, crumpling it and tucking it around the newspaper.



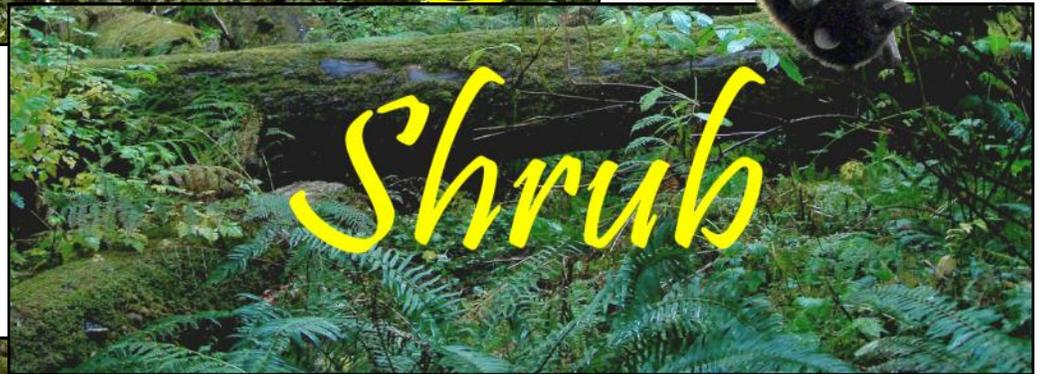
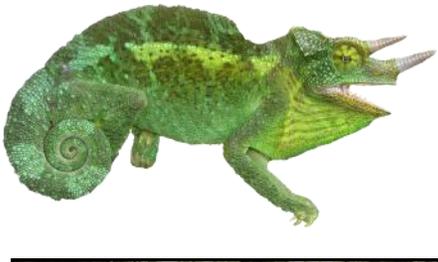


Animal Cutouts

from Public Domain
Photographs



Forest Level Labels





Rainforest Mural

You can turn a corner of your classroom into anything you want it to be. You'll find instructions here to help you create a rainforest (jungle) for your students to investigate. The plants and animals included in this document represent flora and fauna from rainforests around the world.

The easiest, and fastest, way to make this mural is to use silk plants from a dollar store. You can use the plants for many other instructional purposes, so you won't be wasting your money. It should only take a couple of hours to build this mural, even in a very large size, using butcher paper, silk plants, and the animal cutouts provided. OR you can build the mural WITH your students as you study each layer of the rainforest.

If you want to give a little more depth to your mural, you can paint the paper for the rocks ahead of time. To do this, see the directions in the Appendix, "Rough Rocks, Sponge", page 17. Otherwise, just use plain brown butcher or construction paper for the rocks.

If you are creating a backdrop for a play, you may want to make the forest more dimensional. To hang trees and props from the ceiling, see the directions on pages 13-14, and those in the Appendix, "Hanging Mural Items from the Ceiling". Otherwise, you'll probably want to stick with stapling items to the classroom wall. It's much quicker and will still give a three dimensional look.

Materials

- butcher paper: black, brown, green, blue, tan
- manila construction paper
- paper grocery bags or shipping paper (if you don't have tan butcher paper)
- waxed paper, white tissue paper, OR lamin run through with nothing in it
- newspapers or recycled paper to crumple for stuffing
- cut out bulletin board animals and/or plants (attached file) OR student made animals
- silk plants from a dollar store, or student made plants
- heavy floral wire, 18-24 inches long (optional)
- packing or library tape
- sticky back sticky Velcro® dots, duct tape, or hot glue
- scissors
- stapler
- yardstick
- school tempera paint, brushes, and sponges (optional—only if you want to paint the rocks)
- border, or 3" strips of construction paper

While your students are studying the rainforest, you may add their projects to the mural and your mini museum. Your teaching materials will grow greatly by adding student creations to your collection of mini museum artifacts. They will give future students a place to start!