



ZOO SCHOOL



RAINFOREST EXPLORERS

TEACHING IDEAS



RAINFOREST EXPLORERS



Teaching Ideas

PREPARING FOR YOUR VISIT

Take advantage of our free teacher familiarisation visits. Come and have a look around and familiarise yourself with the animals and activities on site.

Using an Atlas or Google Earth, explore the location of Rainforests around the earth. Students can research why Rainforests are found between the tropics and what weather conditions are necessary to grow the most biodiverse habitats on the planet.

Learn about the differences between Rainforest layers/microhabitats. Such as comparing the forest floor to the canopy, what adaptations allow animals to thrive in these different niche environments.

Understand the terms “habitat” and “adaptation”, exploring the diversity of animals that co-habit in the rainforests. An understanding of plant and weather cycles will help link knowledge to rainforest animals.

DURING YOUR ZOO VISIT

Animal Talks

Attending the fascinating Spectacled Bear talk and learning about this surprisingly tropical species. At 15-20 minutes long this is a great opportunity to meet a keeper and see these amazing animals, and also to understand the threats facing them and many other animals that call rainforests their home.

Rainforest Zoo Animals

Visit the following Rainforest species at the zoo: Tapirs, Capybara, Giant Anteater, Patagonian Mara, Banded Armadillo, Spectacle Bear, Siamang Gibbon, Macaw, Black & White Belted Lemur, Cotton-top Tamarin, Ring-tailed Lemur, and many species in the Reptile House. Read our animal pen signs and accessible signs to learn more about the size, diet, habitats and characteristics of these animals.

Workshops

Book a “Rainforest Explorer” workshop with our Education Team for a chance to learn lots of fascinating facts about rainforest animals. The workshop offers the students the opportunity to get up close and meet some of the smaller inhabitants of the world’s rainforests.

Contact the Education Team at: educationteam@noahsarkzoo.co.uk or 01275 852606 (Mon-Fri only)

AFTER YOUR VISIT

Students conduct a case study on a specific rainforest animal that they saw at the zoo. Students examine where this animal comes from and how it is adapted to the rainforest. Students create a ‘Zoo Keeper’s Guide to Spectacled Bears’ or a conservation plan about the species focusing on what is being done to protect these vulnerable animals, using information learnt at the Bear talk.

Students learn about endangered animals in rainforests and explore some of the reasons that animals become extinct – this could lead to a piece of persuasive writing on the topic of poaching.

Students write a calligram, shape poem about a rainforest species they saw at Noah’s Ark Zoo Farm.

Students create animal masks to use and wear in dance/drama lessons, considering how these animals move and how they camouflage in the rainforest.

Students learn about the different cultures inhabiting the rainforests. Learning about their music and making instruments to recreate traditional sounds, or studying different art styles and recreating them in class.

Study adaptation and natural selection – students are given blank animal outline shapes to colour in and try to blend in/camouflage in the classroom (sticking to the walls or windows to match the surroundings). Then someone acting as a predator comes in and ‘hunts’ first 50% seen and removes them, ‘surviving’ students repeat the process again and again until 2 are left which are the best adapted and survive.